

THE
BUSY BODY.
A
COMEDY.

Written by Mrs. SUSANNA CENTLIVRE.

THE SEVENTH EDITION.

Quem tulit ad scenam ventoso Gloria curru,
Exanimat lentus Spectator, sedulus inflat.
Sic leve, sic parvum est, animum quod laudis avaram
Subruit aut reficit — *Horat. Epist. Lib. II. Ep. 1.*



D U B L I N:

Printed by G. PERRIN, No. 10, CASTLE-STREET.

M,DCC,LXXVII.

15482.22.4.11

✓



F. E. Chase fund

P R O L O G U E.

By the Author of TUNBRIDGE-WALKS.

*THO' modern Prophets were expos'd of late,
 The Author cou'd not prophesy his Fate :
 If with such Scenes an Audience had been fir'd,
 The Poet must have really been inspir'd.
 But these, alas ! are melancholy Days,
 For modern Prophets, and for modern Plays.
 Yet since prophetic Lyes please Fools o' Fashion,
 And Women are so fond of Agitation ;
 To Men of Sense I'll prophesy anew,
 And tell you wond'rous Things that will prove true ;
 Undaunted Colonels will to Camps repair,
 Assur'd there'll be no Skirmishes this Year ;
 On our own Terms will stow the wish'd-for Peace,
 All Wars, except 'twixt Man and Wife, will cease.
 The Grand Monarch may wish his Son a Throne,
 But hardly will advance to lose his own.
 This Season most Things bear a smiling Face ;
 But Players, in Summer have a dismal Case,
 Since your Appearance only is our Act of Grace.
 Court Ladies will to Country Seats be gone.
 My Lord can't all the Year live great in Town ;
 Where wanting Operas, Ballet, and a Play,
 They'll sigh, and stitch a Gown, to pass the Time away.
 Gay City Wives at Tunbridge will appear,
 Whose Husbands long have labour'd for an Heir ;
 Where many a Courtier may their Wants relieve,
 But by the Waters only they conceive.
 The Fleet-street Sempstresses, Toast of Temple Sparks,
 That runs spruce Neck cloths for Attorney's Clerks ;
 At Cupid's Gardens will her Hours regale,
 Sing fair Dorinda, and drink bottled Ale.
 At all Assemblies Rakes are up and down,
 And Gamesters where they think they are not known.
 Shou'd I denounce our Author's Fate to-day,
 To cry down Prophecies, you'd damn the Play :
 Yet Whims like these have sometimes made you laugh,
 'Tis tattling all, like Isaac Bickerstaff.*

P R O L O G U E.

*Since War and Places claim the bards that write,
Be kind, and bear a Woman's Treat to Night;
Let your Indulgence all her Fears allay.
And none but women-Haters damn this Play.*

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| Sir George Airy, A Gentleman of
Four Thousand a Year, in Love
with <i>Miranda</i> | } | Mr. Giffard. |
| Sir Francis Gripe. Guardian to
<i>Miranda</i> and <i>Marplot</i> , Father
to <i>Charles</i> , in Love with <i>Mi-
randa</i> . | | |
| <i>Charles</i> , Friend to Sir George, in
Love with <i>Isabinda</i> . | } | Mr. Watson. |
| Sir Jealous Traffick. A Merchant
that had lived some time in <i>Spain</i> ,
a great admirer of the <i>Spanish</i>
Customs, Father to <i>Isabinda</i> . | | |
| <i>Marplot</i> . A sort of a silly Fellow,
Cowardly, but very inquisitive
to know every Body's Business,
generally spoils all he undertakes,
yet without Design. | } | Mr. Griffith. |
| <i>Whisper</i> . Servant to <i>Charles</i> . | | |
| | | Mr. Rosco. |

W O M E N

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| <i>Miranda</i> . An Heiress worth
Thirty Thousand Pounds, really
in Love with Sir George, but
pretends to be so with her Guar-
dian Sir Francis. | } | Mrs. Moreau. |
| <i>Isabinda</i> . Daughter to Sir <i>Jeal-
ous</i> , in Love with <i>Charles</i> , but
designed for a <i>Spanish</i> Merchant
by her Father, and kept up from
the Sight of all Men. | | |
| <i>Pat.h.</i> Her Woman. | | Mrs. Vanderbank. |
| <i>Scentwell</i> . Woman to <i>Miranda</i> . | | Mrs. Grace. |

T H E
B U S Y B O D Y .

A C T I. S C E N E *the Park.*

Sir George Airy meeting Charles.

C H A R L E S .

HA! *Sir George Airy!* A Birding thus early; what forbidden Game rouz'd you so soon? For no lawful Occasion could invite a Person of your Figure abroad at such unfashionable Hours.

Sir Geo. There are some Men *Charles*, whom Fortune has left free from Inquietudes, who are diligently studious to find out Ways and Means to make themselves uneasy.

Cha. Is it possible that any Thing in Nature can ruffle the temper of a Man, whom the four Seasons of the year compliment with as many thousand Pounds, nay, and a Father at rest with his Ancestors.

Sir Geo. Why there 'tis now! a Man that wants Money thinks no one can be unhappy that has it; but my Affairs are in such a whimsical Posture, that it will require a calculation of my Nativity to find if my Gold will relieve me or not.

Cha. Ha, ha, ha, never consult the Stars about that; Gold has a power beyond them; Gold unlocks the Midnight Councils; Gold out-does the Wind, becalms the Ship, or fills her Sails; Gold is omnipotent below; it makes whole armies fight or fly; it buys even Souls, and bribes the Wretches to betray their Country: Then what can thy Business be, that Gold won't serve thee in?

Sir Geo. Why, I'm in Love.

Cha. In Love! — Ha, ha, ha; in Love, Ha ha, ha, with what pr'ythee? a *Cherubin*?

Sir Geo. No,—with a Woman.

Cha. A Woman! Good; Ha, ha, ha, and Gold not help thee?

Sir Geo. But suppose I'm in Love with two——

Cha. Ay, if thou'rt in Love with two hundred, Gold will fetch 'em; I warrant thee, boy. But who are they? who are they? come—

Sir Geo. One is a Lady whose Face I never saw, but witty as an Angel; the other beautiful as *Venus*——

Cha. And a Fool——

Sir Geo. For aught I know, for I never spoke to her; but you can inform me. I am charm'd by the Wit of one, and die for the Beauty of the other.

Cha. And pray which are you in quest of now?

Sir Geo. I prefer the sensual Pleasure,—I'm for her I've seen who is thy Father's Ward, *Miranda*.

Cha. Nay, then I pity you; for the Jew, my Father, will no more part with her, and 30000 Pounds, than he would with a Guinea to keep me from starving.

Sir Geo. Now you see Gold can't do every Thing, *Charles*.

Cha. Yes, for 'tis her Gold that bars my Father's Gate against you.

Sir Geo. Why if he's this avaricious Wretch, how can'st thou by such a liberal Education?

Cha. Not a Soufe out of his Pocket, I assure you: I had an Uncle who defray'd that Charge, but for some little Wildnesses of Youth, tho' he made me his Heir, left Dad my Guardian, till I came to Years of Discretion, which I presume the old Gentleman will never think I am; and now he has got the Estate into his Clutches, it does me no more good than if it lay in *Prestor John's* Dominions.

Sir Geo. What, can'st thou find no Stratagem to redeem it.

Cha. I have made many Essays to no purpose; tho' Want, the Mistress of Invention, still tempts me on, yet still the old Fox is too cunning for me——I am upon the last Project, which if it fails, then for my last Refuge, a brown Musket.

Sir Geo. What is't? can I assist thee?

Cha.

Cha. Not yet; when you can, I have Confidence enough in you to ask it.

Sir Geo. I am always ready; but what does he intend to do with *Miranda*? Is she to be sold in private? Or will he put her up by way of Auction, at who bids most? If so, Egad I'm for him; my Gold, as you say, shall be subservient to my Pleasure

Cha. To deal ingenuously with you, *Sir George*, I know very little of her or Home; for since my Uncle's Death, and my Return from Travel, I have never been well with my Father; he thinks my Expences too great, and I his Allowance too little; he never sees me but he quarrels; and to avoid that, I shun his House as much as possible. The Report is, he intends to marry her himself.

Sir Geo. Can she consent to it?

Cha. Yes, faith, so they say; but I tell you, I am wholly ignorant of the Matter. *Miranda* and I are like two violent Members of a contrary Party; I can scarce allow her Beauty, tho' all the World does; nor she me Civility for that Contempt: I fancy she plays the Mother-in-law already, and sets the old Gentleman on to do Mischief.

Sir Geo. Then I've your free Consent to get her.

Cha. Ay, and my helping Hand, if occasion be.

Sir Geo. Pugh, yonder's a Fool coming this Way, let's avoid him.

Cha. What, *Marplot*; no, no, he's my Instrument; there's a thousand Conveniencies in him, he'll lend me his Money when he has any, run of my Errands, and be proud on't; in short, he'll pimp for me, lie for me, drink for me, do any thing but fight for me, and that I trust to my own Arm for.

Sir Geo. Nay, then, he's to be endured; I never knew his qualifications before.

Enter Marplot, with a Patch cross his face.

Marp. Dear *Charles*, yours—Ha! *Sir George* *Airy*, the Man in the world I have an ambition to be known to (*aside.*) Give me thy Hand, dear Boy.

Cha. A good Assurance! But hark ye, how came your beautiful Countenance clouded in the wrong Place?

Marp. I must confess 'tis a little *Mal-a-propos*, but

no matter for that ; a Word with you, *Charles* ; prithee, introduce me to *Sir George*——he is a man of Wit, and I'd give ten Guineas to——

Cha. When you have 'em, you mean.

Marp. Ay, when I have 'em ; pugh, Pox, you cut the Thread of my Discourse——I would give ten Guineas, I say, to be ranked in his Acquaintance ; Well, 'tis a vast Addition to a Man's Fortune, according to the Rout of the World, to be seen in the Company of leading Men ; for then we are all thought to be Politicians, or Whigs, or Jacks, or High Flyers, or Low Flyers, or Levellers——and so forth ; for you must know we all herd in Parties now.

Cha. Then a Fool for Diversion is out of Fashion, I find.

Marp. Yes, without it be a mimicking Fool, and they are Darlings every where ; but prithee introduce me.

Cha. Well, on Condition you'll give us a true Account how you came by that mourning Nose, I will.

Marp. I'll do't.

Cha. *Sir George*, here's a Gentleman has a passionate Desire to kiss your Hand.

Sir Geo. Oh, I honour Men of the Sword, and I presume this Gentlemen is lately come from *Spain* or *Portugal*——by his Scars.

Marp. No really, *Sir George*, mine sprung from civil Fury. Happening last Night into the Groom Porters,——I had a strong Inclination to go ten Guineas with a fort of a, fort of a——kind of a Milk Sop, as I thought : A Pox, of the Dice, he flung out, and my Pockets being empty, as *Charles* knows they sometimes are, he proved a surly *North Briton*, and broke my Face for my Deficiency.

Sir Geo. Ha ! ha ! and did not you draw ?

Marp. Draw, Sir ! why I did but lay my Hand upon my Sword to make a swift Retreat, and he roared out, Now the Deed a Ma sol, Sir, gin ye touch yer Steel, Ise whip mine through yer Wem.

Sir Geo. Ha, ha, ha !

Cha. Ha, ha, ha, Safe was the Word, so you walk'd off, I suppose.

Marp.

Marp. Yes, for I avoid fighting purely to be serviceable to my Friends, you know——

Sir Geo. Your Friends are much obliged to you, Sir, I hope you'll rank me in that Number.

Marp. Sir *George*, a Bow from the Side Box, or to be seen in your Chariot, binds me ever yours.

Sir Geo. Trifles, you may command 'em when you please.

Cha. Provided he may command you——

Marp. Me! why I live for no other purpose——*Sir George*, I have the honour to be caress'd by most of the reigning Toasts of the Town, I'll tell 'em you are the finest Gentleman——

Sir Geo. No, no, prithee let me alone to tell the Ladies——my Parts——Can you convey a Letter upon Occasion, or deliver a Message with an Air of Business, Ha?

Marp. With the Assurance of a Page, and the Gravity of a Statesman.

Sir Geo. You know *Miranda*——

Marp. What, my Sister Ward? Why her Guardian is mine, we are Fellow Sufferers. Ah, he is a covetous, cheating, sanctify'd Curmudgeon; that *Sir Francis Gripe*, is a damn'd old——

Cha. I suppose Friend, you forget that he is my Father——

Marp. I ask your pardon, *Charles*, but it is for your sake I hate him. Well, I say the World is mistaken in him. His outside Piety makes him every Man's Executor; and his inside Cunning makes him every Heir's Jaylor. Egad, *Charles*, I'm half persuaded that thou'rt some Ward too, and never of his getting: for thou art as honest a Debauchee as ever cuckolded Man of Quality

Sir Geo. A pleasant Fellow.

Cha. The Dog is diverting sometimes, or there wou'd be no enduring his Impertinence: He is pressing to be employ'd, and willing to execute, but some ill Fate generally attends all he undertakes, and he oftner spoils an Intrigue than helps it.——

Marp. If I miscarry, tis none of my Fault, I follow my instructions.

Cha.

The Busy Body.

Cha. Witness the Merchant's Wife.

Mar. Pish, Pox, that was an Accident.

Sir Geo. What was it, prithee?

Cha. Why you must know that I lent a certain Merchant my hunting Horses, and was to have met his Wife in his absence: Sending him alone with my Groom to make the Compliment, and to deliver a Letter to the Lady at the same Time; what does he do, but gives the Husband the Letter, and offers her the Horses.

Mar. I remember you were even with me, for you deny'd the Letter to be yours, and swore I had a Design upon her, which my bones paid for.

Cha. Come, Sir George, let's walk round, if you are not engag'd, for I have sent my Man upon a little earnest business, and I have order'd him to bring me the Answer into the Park.

Mar. Business, and I not know it? Egad, I'll watch him.

Sir Geo. I must beg your pardon, *Charles*, I am to meet your Father.

Char. My Father!

Sir Geo. Ay! and about the oddest Bargain perhaps you ever heard of; but I'll not impart till I know the Success.

Marp. What can his Business be with Sir *Francis*? Now would I give all the World to know it; why the Devil should not one know every Man's Concerns?

[*Aside*

Cha. Prosperity to't, whatever it be; I have private Affairs too; over a Bottle we'll compare Notes.

Marp. *Charles* knows I love a Glass as well as any Man, I'll make one; shall it be to night? Ad I long to know their Secrets.

(*Aside.*

Enter Whisper.

Whisp. Sir, Sir, Mrs. *Patch* says *Isabinda's* Spanish Father has quite spoil'd the Plot, and she can't meet you in the Park, but he infallibly will go out this Afternoon, she says; but I must step again to know the Hour.

Marp. What did *Whisper* say now? I shall go stark mad if I'm not let into this Secret.

(*Aside.*

Cha.

Cha. Curst Misfortune ! come along with me, my Heart feels Pleasure at her Name ; Sir *George*, yours ; we'll meet at the old Place the usual Hour.

Sir *Geo.* Agreed ; I think I see Sir *Francis* yonder.

[*Exit.*

Cha. Marplot, you must excuse, I am engaged [

Exit.

Marp. Engaged ! Egad I'll engage my Life I'll know what your Engagement is. [

Exit.

Miran. [*coming out of a Chair*] Let the Chair wait : My Servant that dogg'd Sir *George*, said he was in the Park.

Enter Patch.

Ha ! Mrs. *Patch* alone ! did not you tell me you had contriv'd a way to bring *Isabinda* to the Park ?

Patch. Oh, Madam, your Ladyship can't imagine what a wretched Disappointment we have met with : Just as I had fetch'd a Suit of my Cloaths for a Disguise, comes my old Master into his Closet, which is right against her chamber door ; this struck us into a terrible Fright——At length I put on a grave Face, and ask'd him if he was at leisure for his Chocolate, in Hopes to draw him out of his Hole ; but he snap'd my Nose off ; no, I shall be busy here these two Hours ; at which my poor Mistress seeing no Way of Escape, ordered me to wait on your Ladyship with the sad Relation.

Miran. Unhappy *Isabinda* ! Was ever any Thing so unaccountable as the Humour of Sir *Jealous Traffick* ?

Patch. Oh, Madam, it's his living so long in *Spain* ; he vows he'll spend half his Estate, but he'll be a Parliament Man, on Purpose to bring in a Bill, for Women to wear Veils, and other odious *Spanish* Customs—He swears it is the Height of Impudence to have a Woman seen barefac'd even at Church, and scarce believes there's a true begotten Child in the City.

Miran. Ha, ha, ha, how the old Fool torments himself ! suppose he could introduce his rigid Rules——does he think we could not match them in Contrivance ? No, no, let the Tyrant, Man, make what Laws he will, if there's a Woman under the Government, I warrant she finds a Way to break 'em : Is his Mind set upon the *Spaniard* for his Son-in-law still ?

Patch. Ay, and he expects him by the next Fleet, which

which drives his Daughter to Melancholy and Despair : But, Madam, I find you retain the same gay, chearful Spirit you had when I waited on your Ladyship — My Lady is mighty good-humoured too, and I have found a Way to make Sir *Jealous* believe I am wholly in his Interest, when my real Design is to serve her ; he makes me her Jailor, and I set her at Liberty.

Miran. I knew thy prolifick Brain would be of singular Service to her, or I had not parted with thee to her Father.

Patch. But, Madam, the Report is, that you are going to marry your Guardian.

Miran. It is necessary such a Report should be, *Patch.*

Patch. But is it true, Madam ?

Miran. That's not absolutely necessary.

Patch. I thought it was only the old Strain, coaxing him still for your own, and railing at all the young Fellows about Town : In my Mind, now, you are as ill plagu'd with your Guardian, Madam, as my Lady is with her Father.

Miran. No, I have Liberty, Wench, that she wants ; what would she give now to be in this *Disbabilie*, in the — open Air, nay more, in Pursuit of the young Fellow she likes ; for that's my Case, I assure thee.

Patch. As for that Madam, she's even with you ; for tho' she can't come abroad, we have a Way to bring him Home in spite of old *Argus*.

Miran. Now, *Patch*, your Opinion of my Choice, for here he comes — Ha ! my Guardian with him ! what can be the Meaning of this ; I am sure Sir *Francis* can't know me in this Dress, — let's observe 'em.

[*They withdraw.*]

Enter Sir Francis Gripe, and Sir George Airy.

Sir *Fran.* Verily, Sir *George*, thou wilt repent throwing away thy Money so, for I tell thee sincerely, *Miranda*, my Charge, does not love a young Fellow ; they are all vicious, and seldom make good Husbands ; in sober sadness she can't abide 'em.

Miran. [*peeping.*] In sober Sadness, you are mistaken — what can this mean ?

Sir *Geo.* Look ye, Sir *Francis*, whether she can or cannot abide young Fellows, is not the Business ; will you take the Fifty Guineas ?

Sir

Sir Fran. In good Truth—I will not; for I knew thy Father, he was a hearty wary Man, and I cannot consent that his Son should squander away what he sav'd to no Purpose.

Miran. [*peeping*] Now, in the Name of Wonder, what Bargain can he be driving about me for fifty Guineas?

Patch. I wish it ben't for the first Night's Lodging, Madam.

Sir Geo. Well, *Sir Francis*, since you are so conscientious for my Father's Sake, then permit me the Favour gratis.

Miran. [*peepnig*] The Favour! O' my Life, I believe tis as you said, *Patch*?

Sir Fran. No, verily, if thou dost not buy the Experience, thou wilt never be wise; and therefore give me a hundred, and try Fortune.

Sir Geo. The Scruple arose. I find, from the scanty Sum—Let me see; a hundred Guineas—[*Takes 'em out of a Purse and chinks 'em.*] Ha! they have a pretty Sound, and a very pleasing Look—But then *Miranda*—But if she should be cruel——

Miran. [*peeping.*] As Ten to One I shall—

Sir Fran. Ay, do consider on't, He, he, he, he.

Sir Geo. No, I'll do't.

Patch. Do't, what, whether you will or no, Madam?

Sir Geo. Come to the Point, here's the Gold, sum up the Condition—

Sir Fran. [*pulling out a Paper.*]

Miran. [*peeping.*] Ay, for Heaven's Sake do, for my Expectation is on the Rack.

Sir Fran. Well, at your own Peril be it.

Sir Geo. Ay, ay, go on.

Sir Fran. *Imprimis*, you are to be admitted into my House, in order to move your Suit to *Miranda*, for the space of ten Minutes without Let or Molestation, provided I remain in the same Room.

Sir Geo. But out of Ear shot

Sir Fran. Well, well, I don't desire to hear what you say, Ha, ha, ha, in Consideration I am to have that Purse and a hundred Guineas.

Sir Geo. Take it——

[*Gives him the Purse.*
Miran.

Miran [*peeping.*] So, 'tis well it's no worse, I'll fit you both——

Sir Geo. And this Agreement is to be perform'd to-day?

Sir Fran. Ay, ay, the sooner the better. Poor Fool, how *Miranda* and I shall laugh at him--Well, *Sir George*, Ha, ha, ha, take the last Sound of your Guineas, Ha, ha, ha. (*Chinks 'em.*) [Exit.

Miran. (*peeping.*) Sure he does not know I am *Miranda*.

Sir Geo. A very extraordinary Bargain I have made truly, if she should be really in Love with this old Cuff now---Psha, that's morally impossible--but then what Hopes have I to succeed? I never spoke to her——

Miran. [*peeping*] Say you so? Then I am safe.

Sir Geo. What tho' my Tongue never spoke, my Eyes said a thousand Things, and my Hopes flatter'd me her's answered 'em. If I am lucky——if not, 'tis but a hundred Guineas thrown away.

[*Miranda and Patch come forward.*]

Miran. Upon what, *Sir George*?

Sir Geo. Ha! my *Incognita*———Upon a Woman, Madam.

Miran. They are the worst Things you can deal in, and damage the soonest; your very breath destroys 'em, and I fear you never will see your Return, *Sir George*, Ha, ha!

Sir Geo. Were they more brittle than *China*, and drop'd to Pieces with a Touch, every Atom of her I have ventured at, if she's but Mistress of thy Wit, balances ten times the Sum——Prithee, let me see thy Face.

Miran. By no Means, that might spoil your Opinion of my Sense——

Sir Geo. Rather confirm it, Madam.

Patch. So rob the Lady of your Gallantry, Sir.

Sir Geo. No, Child, a Dish of Chocolate in the Morning never spoils my Dinner; the other Lady I design a set Meal; so there's no Danger——

Miran. Matrimony! Ha, ha, ha! What Crimes have you committed against the God of Love, that he should revenge 'em so severely to stamp Husband upon your Forehead——

Sir Geo. For my Folly in having so often met with you

you here without pursuing the Laws of Nature, and exercising her Command—But I resolve, ere we part now, to know who you are, where you live, and what kind of Flesh and Blood your Face is; therefore unmask, and don't put me to the Trouble of doing it for you.

Miran. My Face is the same Flesh and Blood with my Hand, Sir George, which, if you'll be so rude to provoke—

Sir Geo. You'll apply it to my Cheek——The Ladies Favours are always welcome; but I must have that Cloud withdrawn. (*taking hold of her.*) Remember you are in the Park, Child, and what a terrible Thing it would be to lose this pretty white Hand.

Miran. And how will it sound in a Chocolate-House, that Sir George Airy rudely pull'd off a Lady's Mask, when he had given her his Honour, that he never would directly or indirectly endeavour to know her till she gave him Leave.

Patch. I wish we were safe out.

Sir Geo. But if that Lady thinks fit to pursue, and meet me at every Turn, like some troubled Spirit, shall I be blamed if I enquire into the Reality? I would have nothing dissatisfied in a Female Shape.

Miran. What shall I do?

(*Pauses.*)

Sir Geo. Ay, pr'ythee consider, for thou shalt find me very much at thy Service.

Patch. Suppose, Sir, the Lady should be in Love with you?

Sir Geo. Oh! I'll return the Obligation in a Moment.

Patch. And marry her?

Sir Geo. Ha, ha, ha, that's not the Way to love her, Child.

Miran. If he discovers me, I shall die—Which Way shall I escape?—Let me see—

(*Pauses.*)

Sir Geo. Well, Madam——

Miran. I have it——Sir George, 'tis fit you should allow something—If you'll excuse my Face, and turn your Back (if you look upon me I shall sink, even mask'd as I am) I will confess why I have engaged you so often, who I am, and where I live.

Sir Geo. Well, to shew you I'm a Man of Honour, I accept the Conditions. Let me but once know those, and the Face won't be long a Secret to me.

Patch. What mean you, Madam?

Miran. To get off.

Sir Geo. 'Tis something indecent to turn one's Back upon a Lady; but you command and I obey (*Turns his Back.*) Come, Madam, begin——

Miran. First then it was my happy Lot to see you at *Paris*, [*draws back a little while and speaks.*] at a Ball upon a Birth-day; your Shape and Air charm'd my Eyes; your Wit and Complaisance my Soul, and from that fatal Night I lov'd you. [*Drawing back.*

And when you left the Place Grief seiz'd me so—

No Rest my Heart, no Sleep my Eyes cou'd know—

Last, I resolv'd a hazardous Point to try,

And quit the Place in search of Liberty. [*Exit.*

Sir Geo. Excellent—I hope she's handsome——Well, now, Madam, to the other two Things: Your Name, and where you live——I am a Gentleman, and this Confession will not be lost upon me——Nay, pr'ythee, don't weep, but go on—for I find my Heart melts in thy Behalf—speak quickly, or I shall turn about——Not yet——Poor Lady, she expects I should comfort her; and, to do her Justice, she has said enough to encourage me. (*turns about.*) Ha! gone! the Devil, jilted! Why, what a Tale has she invented—of *Paris*, Balls, and Birth-days—Egad, I'd give ten Guineas to know who this Gipsy is——A Curle of my Folly——I deserve to lose her: What Woman can forgive a Man that turns his back?

*The bold and resolute in Love and War,
To conquer take the right and swiftest Way;
The boldest Lover soonest gains the Fair,
As courage makes the rudest Force obey;
Take no Denial and the Dames adore ye,
Closely pursue them and they fall before ye.*

End of the First A C T.

A C T II.

Enter Sir Francis Gripe, Miranda.

Sir FRANCIS.

HA, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.
Miran. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha; Oh, I shall die with Laughing—The most romantick Adventure; Ha, ha! What does the odious young Fop mean? A hundred Pieces to talk an Hour with me: Ha, ha.

Sir Fran. And I am to be by too: there's the jest: Adod, if it had been in private, I should not have cared to trust the young Dog.

Miran. Indeed and indeed but you might, *Guardy*—Now methinks there's nobody handsomer than you: So neat, so clean, so good-humour'd, and so loving—

Sir Fran. Pretty Rogue, pretty Rogue, and so thou shalt find me; if thou dost prefer thy *Guardy* before these Caperers of the Age; thou shalt outshine the Queen's Box on an *Opera* Night; thou shalt be the Envy of the Ring (for I will carry thee to *Hyde-Park*) and thy Equipage shall surpass the what—d'ye call 'em Ambassador's

Miran. Nay, I'm sure the discreet Part of my Sex will envy me more for the inside Furniture, when you are in it, than my outside Equipage.

Sir Fran. A cunning Baggage, a Faith thou art, and a wise one too; and to shew thee thou hast not chose amiss, I'll this Moment disinheret my Son, and settle my whole Estate upon thee.

Miran. There's an old Rogue now. (*Aside.*) No, *Guardy*, I would not have your Name be so black in the World—You know my Father's Will runs, that I am not to possess my Estate, without your Consent, till I'm Five and Twenty; you shall only abate the odd Seven Years, and make me Mistress of my Estate To-day, and I'll make you Master of my Person To-morrow

Sir Fran. Hamph! that may not be safe—No, *Chargy*, I'll settle it upon thee for *Pin Money*; and that will be every bit as well, thou know'st.

Miran. Unconscionable old Wretch, bribe me with my own Money—Which Way shall I get out of his Hands?

[*Aside.*
 Sir

Sir Fran. Well, what art thou thinking on, my Girl, ha? How to banter *Sir George*?

Miran. I must not pretend to banter: He knows my Tongue too well: (*Aside.*) No, *Guardy*, I have thought of a Way will confound him more than all I could say if I should talk to him seven Years.

Sir Fran. How's that? Oh! I am transported, I'm ravished, I'm mad—

Miran. It would make you mad if you knew all.—(*Aside.*) I'll not answer him one Word, but be dumb to all he says—

Sir Fran. Dumb, good; Ha, ha, ha, Excellent! ha, ha! I think I have you now, *Sir George*,—dumb! he'll go distracted—Well, she's the wittiest Rogue. Ha, ha, dumb! I can but laugh, ha, ha, to think how damn'd mad he'll be when he finds he has given his money away for a dumb Show. Ha, ha, ha!

Miran. Nay, *Guardy*, if he did but know my Thoughts of him it would make him ten Times madder: Ha, la, ha!

Sir Fran. Ay so it would, *Chargy*, to hold him in such Derision, to scorn to answer him, to be dumb! Ha, ha, ha!

Enter Charles.

Sir Fran. How now, *Sirrah*? Who let you in?

Cha. My Necessity, Sir?

Sir Fran. Sir, your Necessities are very impertinent, and ought to have sent before they enter'd.

Cha. Sir, I knew it was a Word wou'd gain Admittance no where

Sir Fran. Then, *Sirrah*, how durst you rudely thrust that upon your Father, which nobody else wou'd admit?

Cha. Sure the name of a Son is a sufficient Plea. I ask this Lady's Pardon, if I have intruded.

Sir Fran. Ay, ay, ask her Pardon and her Blessingtoo, if you expect any Thing from me.

Miran. I believe yours, *Sir Francis*, in a Purse of Guineas, would be more material. Your Son may have Business with you, ~~he~~ retire.

Sir Fran. I guess his Business, but I'll dispatch him; I expect the Knight every Minute: You'll be in Readiness.

Miran.

Miran. Certainly! my Expectation is more upon the Wing than yours, old Gentleman. *(Exit.)*

Sir Fran. Well, Sir—

Cha. Nay, it is very ill, Sir; my Circumstances are, I'm sure.

Sir Fran. And what's that to me, Sir? your Management should have made them better.

Cha. If you please to intrust me with the Management of my own Estate, I shall endeavour it, Sir.

Sir Fran. What to set upon a Card, and buy a Lady's Favour, at the Price of a Thousand Pieces, to rig out an Equipage for a Wench, or by your Carelessness enrich your Steward to fine for Sheriff, or put up for Parliament Man.

Cha. I hope I shou'd not spend it this Way: However I ask only what my Uncle left me; yours you may dispose of as you please, Sir.

Sir Fran. That I shall, out of your Reach, I assure you, Sir. Adod, these young Fellows think old Men get Estates for nothing but them to squander away, in Dicing, wenching, drinking, dressing, and so forth.

Cha. I think I was born a Gentleman, Sir; I'm sure my Uncle bred me like one.

Sir Fran. From which you would infer, Sir, that Gaming, Whoring, and the Pox, are Requisites to a Gentleman.

Cha. Monstrous! when I would ask him only for a Support he falls into these unmannerly Reproaches: I must, tho' against my Will, employ Invention, and by Stratagem relieve myself. *[Aside.]*

Sir Fran. Sirrah, what is it you mutter, Sirrah, Ha? *(Holds up his cane)* I say you shan't have a Groat out of my Hands till I please—and may be I'll never please, and what's that to you?

Cha. Nay, to be robb'd, or have one's Throat cut is not much——

Sir Fran. What's that, Sirrah? wou'd you rob me, or cut my Throat, ye Rogue?

Cha. Heaven forbid, Sir,——I said no such Thing.

Sir Fran. Mercy on me! What a Plague it is to have a Son of One and Twenty, who wants to elbow one out of one's Life, to edge himself into the Estate!

Enter

Enter Marplot.

Marp. Egad, he's here— I was afraid I had lost him: His Secret cou'd not be with his Father, his Wants are publick there— Guardian, your Servant. *Charles*, I know by that sorrowful Countenance of thine, the old Man's Fift is as close as his strong Box— But I'll help thee—

Sir Fran. So: Here's another extravagant coxcomb, that will spend his fortune before he comes to't; but he shall pay swingeing Interest, and so let the Fool go on— Well, what! does Necessity bring you too, Sir?

Marp. You have hit it, Guardian— I want a Hundred Pounds.

Sir Fran. For what?

Warp. Pogh, for a hundred Things. I can't for my Life tell you for what.

Cha. Sir, I suppose I have received all the Answer I am like to have.

Marp. Oh, the Devil! if he gets out before me I shall lose him again.

Sir Fran. Ay, Sir, and you may be marching as soon as you please— I must see a change in your Temper ere you find one in mine.

Marp. Pray, Sir, dispatch me; the Money, Sir; I'm in a mighty haste.

Sir Fran. Fool, take this, and go to the Cashier; I shan't be long plagued with thee. *(gives him a note.)*

Marp. The Devil take the Cashier, I shall certainly have *Charles* gone before I come back again. *(Runs out.)*

Cha. Well Sir, I take my Leave— But, remember, you expose an only Son to all the Miseries of wretched Poverty, which too often lays the Plan for Scenes of Mischief.

Sir Fran. Stay. *Charles*, I have a sudden Thought come into my Head, may prove to thy Advantage.

Cha. Ha, does he relent!

Sir Fran. My Lady *Wrinkle*, worth Forty Thousand Pounds, sets up for a handsome young Husband; she praised thee t'other Day; tho' the Match-makers can get Twenty Guineas for a Sight of her, I can introduce thee for nothing.

Cha.

Cha. My Lady *Wrinkle*, Sir! Why she has but one Eye.

Sir Fran. Then she'll see but half your Extravagance, Sir.

Cha. Condemn me to such a Piece of Deformity! Toothless, Dirty, Wry-neck'd, Hunch-back'd Hag.

Sir Fran. Hunch-back'd! so much the better, then she has a Rest for her Misfortunes; for thou wilt load her swingeingly. Now I warrant you think, this is no Offer of a Father; Forty Thousand Pounds is nothing with you.

Cha. Yes, Sir, I think it is too much; a young beautiful Woman, with half the Money, would be more agreeable; I thank you, Sir, but you chuse better for yourself, I find.

Sir Fran. Out of my Doors you Dog; you pretend to meddle with my Marriage, Sirrah!

Cha. Sir, I obey: But——

Sir Fran. But me no Buts—Begone, Sir: Dare you ask me for Money again—Refuse Forty Thousand Pounds! Out of my Doors, I say, without Reply.

(Exit Charles.)

Enter a Servant.

Serv. One Sir George *Airy* enquires for you, Sir.

Enter Marplot, running.

Marp. Ha! gone! is *Charles* gone, Guardian?

Sir Fran. Yes, and I desire your wife Worship to walk after him.

Marp. Nay, Egad I shall run, I tell you but that. Ah, Pox o'the Cashier for detaining me so long; where the Devil shall I find him now? I shall certainly lose this Secret.

(Exit hastily.)

Sir Fran. What, is the Fellow distracted?—Desire Sir *George* to walk up—Now for a Trial of Skill that will make me happy, and him a Fool: Ha, ha, ha, in my Mind he looks like an Ass already.

Enter Sir George.

Sir Fran. Well, Sir *Georgé*, d'ye hold in the same Mind, or would you capitulate? Ha, ha, ha! Look here are the Guineas. *(chinks them.)* Ha, ha, ha!

Sir Geo. Not if they were twice the Sum, Sir *Francis*: Therefore be brief, call in the Lady, and take your Post
if

—if she's a Woman, and not seduced by Witchcraft to this old Rogue, I'll make his Heart ake ; for if she has but one Grain of Inclination about her, I'll vary a thousand Shapes but find it. *(aside.)*

Enter Miranda.

Sir Fran. Agreed—*Miranda.* There, Sir George, try your Fortune. *(Takes out his Watch.)*

Sir Geo. So from the Eastern Chambers breaks the Sun, dispels the Clouds, and gilds the Vales below.

(Salutes her.)

Sir Fran. Hold, Sir, Kissing was not in our Agreement.

Sir Geo. Oh ! that's by Way of Prologue——
Prithee, old Mammon, to thy Post.

Sir Fran. Well, young *Timon*, 'tis now four exactly ; one Hour, remember, is your utmost Limit, not a Minute more. *(Retires to the Bottom of the Stage.)*

Sir Geo. Madam, whether you'll excuse or blame my Love, the Author of this rash Proceeding, depends upon your Pleasure, as also the Life of your Admirer ; your sparkling Eyes speak a Heart susceptible of Love ; your Vivacity a Soul too delicate to admit the Embraces of decayed Mortality.

Miran. (aside.) Oh ! that I durst speak——

Sir Geo. Shake off this Tyrant Guardian's Yoke, assume yourself, and dash his bold aspiring Hopes ; the Deity of his Desires is Avarice ; a Heretick in Love, and ought to be banished by the Queen of Beauty. See, Madam, a faithful Servant kneels, and begs to be admitted into the Number of your Slaves.

(Miranda gives him her Hand to raise him.)

Sir Fran. I wish I could hear what he says now, *[Running up.]* Hold, hold, hold, no Palming, that's contrary to Articles——

Sir Geo. Death, Sir, keep your Distance, or I'll write another Article in your Guts.

[Lays his Hand to his Sword.]

Sir Fran. *[Going back.]* A bloody minded Fellow !

Sir Geo. Not answer me ! Perhaps she thinks my address too grave : I'll be more free——Can you be so unconscionable, Madam, to let me say all these fine things to you without one single Compliment in Return? View me

me well, am I not a proper handsome Fellow, ha ? Can you prefer that old, dry, wither'd, sapless Log of Sixty-five, to the vigorous, gay, sprightly Love of Twenty-four ? With snoring only he'll awake thee, but I, with ravishing Delight, would make thy Senses dance in concert with the joyful Minutes——Ha ; not yet ? sure she is dumb——Thus would I steal and touch thy beautiful Hand, [*Takes hold of her Hand*] till by Degree I reached thy snowy Breasts, then ravish Kisses thus.

[*Embraces her in Ecstasy.*

Miran. [*Struggles, and flings from him.*] O Heavens ! I shall not be able to contain myself. [*aside.*

Sir Fran. [*Running up with his Watch in his Hand.*] Sure she did not speak to him——There's three Quarters of the Hour's gone, *Sir George*——Adod, I don't like these close Conferences——

Sir Geo. More Interruptions————You will have it, *Sir.* [*Lays his Hand to his Sword.*

Sir Fran. [*going back.*] No, no, you shan't have her neither. [*aside.*

Sir Geo. Dumb still !——Sure this old Dog has enjoin'd her Silence ; I'll try another Way——I must conclude, Madam, that in Compliance to your Guardian's Humour, you refuse to answer me——Consider the Injustice of this Injunction. This single Hour cost me a hundred Pounds——and would you answer me, I could purchase the Twenty-four so : However, Madam, you must give me Leave to make the best Interpretation I can for my Money, and take the Indication of your Silence for the secret liking of my Person : Therefore, Madam, I will instruct you how to keep your Word with *Sir Francis* : and yet answer me to every Question : As for Example, when I ask you any Thing to which you would reply in the Affirmative, gently nod your Head——thus ; and when in the Negative, thus ; [*shaking his Head.*] and in the Doubtful, a tender Sigh, thus ; [*sighs.*

Miran. How every Action charms me——but I'll fit him for his Signs, I warrant him. [*aside.*

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, ha, ha, poor *Sir George*, Ha, ha, ha, ha. [*aside.*

Sir

Sir Geo. Was it by his Desire that you are dumb, Madam, to all that I can say?

Miran. [*Nods.*]

Sir Geo. Very well; she's tractable I find—And is it possible you can love him? [*Miranda nods.*] Miraculous! Pardon the Bluntness of my Questions, for my Time is short; may I not hope to supplant him in your Esteem; [*Miran. sighs*] Good, she answers as I could wish—You'll not consent to marry then? [*Miran. sighs.*] How doubtful in that—Undone again—Humph! but that may proceed from his power to keep her out of her Estate till twenty-five; I'll try that—Come, Madam, I cannot think you hesitate on this Affair out of any Motive but your Fortune—Let him keep it till those few Years are expired; make me happy with your Person, let him enjoy your Wealth—[*Miran. holds up her Hands.*] Why, what Sign is that now? Nay, nay, Madam, except you observe my Lesson, I can't understand your Meaning—

Sir Fran. What a Vengeance, are they talking by Signs! ad I may be fool'd here: what do you mean, Sir George?

Sir Geo. To cut your Throat if you dare mutter another Syllable.

Sir Fran. Od! I wish he were fairly out of my House.

Sir Geo. Pray, Madam, will you answer me to the Purpose? [*Miran. shakes her Head and points to Sir Francis*] What does she mean? she won't answer me to the Purpose, or is she afraid yon old Cuff should understand her Signs?—Ay, it must be that—I perceive, Madam, you are too apprehensive of the Promise you have made to follow my Rules; therefore I'll suppose your Mind, and answer for you—First for myself, Madam, that I'm in Love with you is an infallible Truth. Now for you: [*Turns on her Side.*] Indeed, Sir! and may I believe it?—As certainly, Madam, as that 'tis Day-light, or that I die if you persist in Silence—Bless me with the Musick of your Voice, and raise my Spirits to their proper Heaven. Thus low let me entreat; ere I'm obliged to quit

quit this Place, grant me some token of a favourable Reception to keep my Hopes alive. [*Arises hastily and turns of her Side.*] Rise, Sir, and since my Guàrdian's Presence will not allow me Privilege of Tongue, read that, and rest assured you are not indifferent to me. [*Offers her a Letter.*] Ha! right Woman! [*She strikes it down.*] But no matter, I'll go on.

Sir *Fran.* Ha! what's that? A Letter——Ha, ha, ha, thou art baulk'd.

Miran. The best Assurance I ever saw—— [*Aside.*

Sir *Geo.* Ha! a Letter; Oh! let me kiss it with the same raptures that I would do the dear Hand that touch'd it. [*Opens it.*] Now for a quick fancy, and a long extempore——What's here? [*Reads.*] “Dear Sir *George*, this Virgin Muse I consecrate to you, “which when it has received the Addition of your “Voice, ’twill charm me into a Desire of Liberty to “Love, which you, and only you can fix.” My Angel! Oh you transport me! [*Kisses the Letter.*] And see the power of your Command; the God of Love has set the Verse already: the flowing Numbers dance into a Tune, and I’m inspir’d with a Voice to sing it.

Miran. I’m sure thou art inspir’d with impudence enough.

Sir *Geo.* [*Sings.*]

Great Love inspire him;
Say I admire him;
Give me the Lover
That can discover
Secret Devotion
From silent Motion;
Then don’t betray me,
But hence convey me

Sir *Geo.* [*Taking hold of Miranda.*] With all my Heart, this Moment let’s retire.

[*Sir Francis coming up hastily.*

Sir *Fran.* The Hour is expir’d, Sir, and you must take your leave. There, my Girl, there’s the Hundred Pounds which thou hast won, go, I’ll be with you presently. Ha, ha, ha, ha. [*Exit Miranda.*

Sir Geo. Ads Heart, Madam, you won't leave me just in the Nick, will you?

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, ha, she has nick'd you, Sir George, I think. Ha, ha, ha, have you any more Hundred Pounds to throw away upon Courtship? Ha, ha, ha.

Sir Geo. He, he, he, he, a Curse of your fleering Jests——Yet however ill I succeed, I'll venture the same Wager; she does not value thee a Spoonful of Snuff——Nay more, tho' you enjoin'd her Silence to me, you'll never make her speak to the purpose with yourself.

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, ha, did not I tell thee thou would'st repent thy Money? Did I not say she hated young Fellows. Ha, ha, ha.

Sir Geo. And I'm positive she's not in Love with Age.

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, no matter for that; Ha, ha, she's not taken with your Youth, nor your rhetorick to boot, Ha, ha.

Sir Geo. Whate'er her Reasons are for disliking of me, I am certain she can be taken with nothing about thee.

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, ha, how he swells with Envy——Poor Man, poor Man——Ha, ha; I must beg your pardon, Sir George; *Miranda* will be impatient to have her share of Mirth: Verily we shall laugh at thee most egregiously; Ha, ha, ha.

Sir Geo. With all my Heart, Faith,——I shall laugh in my turn too——For if you dare marry her, old *Belzebub*, you would be cuckolded most egregiously; Remember that and tremble.

*She that to Age her beauteous self resigns,
Shows witty Management for close Designs.
Then if thou'rt grac'd with fair Miranda's Bed,
Acton's Horns she means shall crown thy Head.*

[Exit.

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, ha; he is mad.

*These fluttering Fops imagine they can wind,
Turn, and decoy to Love all Woman-kind:
But here's a proof of Wisdom in my Charge,
Old Men are constant, young Men live at large.*

The

*The frugal Hand can Bills at Sight destroy,
When he that lavish is, has Nought to pay.*

[Exit.

SCENE Changes to Sir Jealous Traffick's House.

Enter Sir Jealous, Isabinda, Patch following.

Sir Jeal. What, in the Balcony again, notwithstanding my positive Commands to the contrary!—Why don't you write a Bill upon your Forehead, to shew Passengers there's something to be let——

Isab. What harm can there be in a little fresh Air, Sir?

Sir Jeal. Is your Constitution so hot, Mistress, that it wants cooling, ha? Apply the virtuous *Spanish* Rules, banish your Taste, and thoughts of Flesh, feed upon Roots, and quench your Thirst with Water.

Isab. That and a close Room would certainly make me die of the Vapours.

Sir Jeal. No, Mistress, 'tis your high fed, lusty, rambling, rampant Ladies—that are troubled with the Vapours; 'tis your Ratafia, Perfico, Cinnamon, Citron, and Spirit of Clary, that causes such Swelling in the Brain, that carries many a Guinea full-tide to the Doctor. But you are not to be bred this way; no galloping abroad, no receiving Visits at home; for, in our loose Country, the women are as dangerous as the Men.

Patch. So I told her, Sir, and that it was not decent to be seen in a Balcony——But she threatened to slap my Chops, and told me I was her Servant, not her Governess.

Sir Jeal. Did she so? But I'll make her to know, that you are her *Duenna*: Oh that incomparable Custom of *Spain*! Why here's no depending upon old Women in my Country——for they are as wanton at Eighty, as a girl of Eighteen; and a Man may as safely trust to *Asgil's* Translation, as to his Grand-mother's not marrying again.

Isab. Or to the *Spanish* Ladies Veils and *Duennas*, for the safeguard of their Honour.

Sir Jeal. Dare to ridicule the cautious Conduct of

that wise Nation, and I'll have you lock'd up this Fort-night without a Peep hole.

Ifab. If we had but the ghostly Helps in *England*, which they have in *Spain*, I might deceive you if you did—Sir, 'tis not the Restraint, but the innate Principles, secure the Reputation and Honour of our Sex——Let me tell you, Sir, Confinement sharpens the Invention, as want of Sight strengthens the other Senses, and is often more pernicious, than the Recreation innocent Liberty allows.

Sir *Jeal.* Say you so, Mistress; who the Devil taught you the Art of Reasoning? I assure you, they must have a greater Faith than I pretend to, that can think any Woman innocent who requires Liberty. Therefore, *Patch*, to your Charge I give her; lock her up till I come back from *Change*; I shall have some sauntering Coxcomb, with nothing but a red Coat and a Feather, think, by leaping into her Arms, to leap into my Estate——But I'll prevent them; she shall be only Seigneur *Babinetto's*.

Patch. Really, Sir, I wish you would employ any Body else in this Affair; I lead a Life like a Dog, with obeying your Commands. Come, Madam, will you please to be lock'd up?

Ifab. Ay, to enjoy more Freedom than he is aware of. [*Aside.*]

[*Exit with Patch.*]

Sir *Jeal.* I believe this Wench is very true to my Interest; I am happy I met with her, if I can but keep my Daughter from being blown upon till Seigneur *Babinetto* arrives; who shall marry her as soon as he comes, and carry her to *Spain* as soon as he has marry'd her; she has a pregnant Wit, and I'd no more have her an *English* Wife, than the Grand Seigneur's Mistress.

Enter Whisper.

Whisp. So, I see Sir *Jealous* go out; where shall I find Mrs. *Patch*, now?

Enter Patch.

Patch. Oh, Mr. *Whisper*, my Lady saw you out at the Window, and order'd me to bid you fly, and let your Master know she's now alone.

Whisp. Hush, speak softly; I go, I go; But hark'ee
Mrs.

Mrs. Patch, shall not you and I have a little Confabulation, when my Master and your Mistress are engag'd?

Patch. Ay, ay, Farewell.

[Goes in and shuts the Door.

Re-enter Sir Jealous Traffick meeting Whisp.

Sir Jeal. Sure, whilst I was talking with Mr. Tradewell, I heard my Door clap. [Seeing Whisp.] Ha! a Man lurking about my House; who do you want there, Sir?

Whisp. Want——want, a pox, Sir Jealous! what must I say now?——

Sir Jeal. Ay, want? have you a Letter or Message for any Body there?——O' my Conscience, this is some He Bawd——

Whisp. Letter or Message, Sir!

Sir Jeal. Ay, Letter or Message, Sir!

Whisp. No, not I, Sir.

Sir Jeal. Sirrah, Sirrah, I'll have you set in the Stocks, if you don't tell me your Business immediately.

Whisp. Nay, Sir, my Business-----it is no great matter of Business neither; and yet 'tis Business of Consequence too.

Sir Jeal. Sirrah, don't trifle with me.

Whisp. Trifle, Sir, have you found him, Sir?

Sir Jeal. Found what, you Rascal?

Whisp. Why Trifle is the very Lap-Dog my Lady lost, Sir; I fancy'd I seen him run into this House. I'm glad you have him-----Sir, my Lady will be overjoyed that I found him.

Sir Jeal. Who is your Lady, Friend?

Whisp. My Lady Love-Puppy, Sir.

Sir Jeal. My Lady Love-Puppy! then prithee carry thyself to her, for I know no other Whelp that belongs to her; and let me catch you no more Puppy-hunting about my Doors, lest I have you prest into the Service, Sirrah.

Whisp. By no means, Sir—— Your humble Servant; I must watch whether he goes, or no, before I can tell my Master.

Sir Jeal. This Fellow has the officious Leer of a

Pimp; and I half suspect a Design; but I'll be upon them before they think on me, I warrant 'em.

[*Exit.*]

S C E N E, Charles's Lodging.

Enter Charles and Marplot.

Char. Honest *Marplot*, I thank thee for this Supply; I expect my Lawyer with a Thousand Pound I have order'd him to take up, and then you shall be repaid.

Marp. Pho, pho, no more of that; here comes Sir George *Airy* ———

Enter Sir George.

Curfedly out of Humour at his Disappointment; see how he looks! Ha, ha, ha.

Sir Geo. Ah, *Charles*, I am so humbled in my Pretensions to Plots upon Women, that I believe I shall never have Courage enough to attempt a Chamber-maid again ——— I'll tell thee.

Cha. Ha, ha; I'll spare you the Relation, by telling you ——— Impatient to know your Business with my Father, when I saw you enter, I slipt back into the next Room, where I overheard every Syllable.

Sir Geo. That I said ——— But I'll be hang'd if you heard her Answer ——— But prithee tell me, *Charles*, is she a Fool?

Cha. I ne'er suspected her for one; but *Marplot* can inform you better, if you'll allow him a Judge.

Marp. A Fool? I'll justify she has more Wit than all the rest of her Sex put together; why she'll rally me till I han't one Word to say for myself.

Cha. A mighty Proof of her wit truly ———

Marp. There must be some trick in't, *Sir George*; Egad I'll find it out if it cost me the Sum you paid for't.

Sir Geo. Do, and command me ———

Marp. Enough, let me alone to trace a Secret.

Enter Whisper, and speaks aside to his Master.

The Devil! *Whisper* here again; that Fellow never speaks out; is this the same, or a new Secret? *Sir George*, won't you ask *Charles* what News *Whisper* brings?

Sir Geo. Not I, Sir; I suppose it does not relate to me.

Marp. Lord, Lord, how little Curiosity some People

The Busy Body.

31

ple have! Now my chief Pleasure lies in knowing every Body's Business.

Sir Geo. I fancy, *Charles*, thou hast some Engagement upon thy Hands: I have a little Business too --- *Marplot*, if it fall in your way to bring me any Intelligence from *Miranda*, you'll find me at the Thatch'd House at Six-----

Marp. You do me much Honour.

Cha. You guess right. Sir *George*, wish me success.

Sir Geo. Better than attended me. Adieu. [Exit.

Cha. *Marplot*, you must excuse me----

Marp. Nay, nay, what need of any Excuse amongst Friends! I'll go with you.

Cha. Indeed you must not.

Marp. No! then I suppose 'tis a Duel, and I will go to secure ye.

Cha. Secure me? why, you won't fight?

Marp. What then! I can call the People to part ye.

Cha. Well, but it is no Duel, consequently no Danger; therefore prithee be answer'd.

Mar. What, is't a Mistress then?-----Mum-----You know I can be silent upon Occasion.

Cha. I wish you could be civil too; I tell you, you neither must nor shall go with me. Farewell. [Exit.

Marp. Why then-----I must and will follow you.

[Exit.

The End of the Second A C T.

A C T III.

Enter Charles.

Cha **W**ELL, here's the House which holds the lovely Prize, quiet and serene; here no noisy Footmen throng to tell the World, that Beauty dwells within; no ceremonious Visit makes the Lover wait; no Rival to give my heart a Pang; who would not scale the Window at Midnight without Fear of the jealous Father's Pistols, rather than fill up the Train
of

of a Coquet, where every Minute he is jostled out of Place. [*Knocks softly.*] Mrs. Patch, Mrs. Patch.

Enter Patch.

Patch. Oh, are you come, Sir? all's safe.

Cha. So, in in then.

Enter Marplot.

Marp. There he goes: Who the Devil lives here? Except I can find out that, I am as far from knowing his Business as ever; Gad I'll watch, it may be a Bawdy-house, and he may have his Throat cut; if there should be any Mischief, I can make Oath he went in. Well, *Charles*, in spite of your Endeavour to keep me out of the Secret, I may save your Life for aught I know: At that corner I'll plant myself, there I shall see whoever goes in, or comes out. Gad I love Discoveries. [*Exit.*]

S C E N E *draws.* Charles, Isabinda, and Patch.

Isab. Patch, look out sharp; have a care of Dad.

Patch. I warrant you.

Isab. Well, Sir, if I may judge your Love by your Courage I ought to believe you sincere; for you venture into the Lion's Den when you come to see me.

Cha. If you'd consent while the furious Beast is abroad, I'd free you from the reach of his Paws.

Isab. That would be but to avoid one Danger by running into another; like the poor Wretches who fly the burning Ship, and meet their Fate in the Water. Come, come, *Charles*, I fear if I consult my Reason, Confinement and Plenty, is better than Liberty and Starving. I know you'd make the Frolick pleasing for a little Time, by saying and doing a World of tender things; but when our small Substance is once exhausted, and a thousand Requisites for Life are wanting, Love, who rarely dwells with Poverty, would also fail us.

Cha. Faith, I fancy not; methinks my Heart has laid up a Stock will last for Life; to back which I have taken a thousand Pound upon my Uncle's Estate; that surely will support us till one of our Fathers relent.

Isab. There's no trusting to that, my Friend; I doubt your Father will carry his humour to the grave, and mine until he sees me settled in Spain.

Cha.

Cha. And can you then cruelly resolve to stay till that curs'd *Don* arrives, and suffer that Youth, Beauty, Fire and Wit, to be sacrificed to the Arms of a dull *Spaniard*, to be immur'd and forbid the Sight of any thing that's human?

Ifab. No, when it comes to that Extremity, and no Stratagem can relieve us, thou shalt lift for a Soldier, and I'll carry the Knapsack after thee.

Cha. Bravely resolv'd; the World cannot be more savage than our Parents, and Fortune generally assists the Bold; therefore consent now: Why should we put it to a future Hazard? Who knows when we shall have another Opportunity?

Ifab. Oh you have your Ladder of Ropes, I suppose, and the Closet Window stands just where it did; and if you han't forgot to write in Characters, *Patch* will find a way for our Affignations. Thus much of the *Spanish* Contrivance my Father's Severity has taught me; I thank him: Tho' I hate the Nation, I admire their management in these Affairs.

Enter *Patch*.

Patch. Oh, Madam, I see my Master coming up the Street.

Cha. Oh the Devil, wou'd I had my Ladder now. I thought you had not expected him till Night; why, why, why, what shall I do, Madam?

Ifab. Oh! for Heaven's sake! don't go that Way, you'll meet him full in the Teeth: Oh unlucky Moment!-----

Cha. Adfheart, can you shut me into no Cupboard, ram me into no Chest, ha?

Patch. Impossible, Sir; he searches every Hole in the House.

Ifab. Undone for ever! if he sees you, I shall never see you more.

Patch. I have thought on't: Run you to your Chamber, Madam, and Sir, come you along with me, I'm certain you may easily get down from the Balcony.

Cha. My Life, Adieu---Lead on, guide. [Exit.

Ifab. Heaven preserve him! [Exit.

SCENE

S C E N E *changes to the Street.**Enter Sir Jealous, with Marplot behind him.*

Sir Jeal. I don't know what's the matter, but I have a strong Suspicion all is not right within; that Fellow's sauntering about my Door, and his Tale of a Puppy had the Face of a Lye methought. By St. Jago, if I should find a Man in my House, I'd make Mince-meat of him——

Marp. Ah! poor Charles——ha! Egad he is old—— I fancy I might bully him, and make Charles have an Opinion of my Courage.

Sir Jeal. My own Key shall let me in; I'll give them no Warning. *[Feeling for his Key.]*

Marp. What's that you say, Sir?

[Going up to Sir Jealous.]

Sir Jeal. What's that you say, Sir?

[Turns quick upon him.]

Marp. Yes, 'tis to me, Sir; for the Gentleman you threaten is a very honest Gentleman. Look to't; for if he comes not as safe out of your House as he went in, I have half a dozen *Myrmidons* hard by shall beat it about your Ears.

Sir Jeal. Went in? What is he in then? Ah! a Combination to undo me——I'll *Myrmidon* you, ye Dog you——Thieves, Thieves!

[Beats Marplot all the while he cries Thieves.]

Marp. Murder, Murder; I was not in your House, Sir.

Enter Servant.

Serv. What's the matter, Sir?

Sir Jeal. The matter, Rascals? Have you let a Man into my House? but I'll flea him alive; follow me, I'll not leave a Mouse-hole unsearch'd; if I find him, by St. Jago, I'll equip him for the Opera.

Marp. A Deuce of his Cane, there's no trusting to Age——What shall I do to relieve Charles? Egad I'll raise the Neighbourhood——Murder, Murder——*(Charles drops down upon him from the Balcony)* Charles, faith I'm glad to see thee safe out with all my Heart.

Cha. A Pox of your Bawling; How the Devil came you here?

Marp.

Marp. Here, gad, I have done you a piece of Service; I told the old Thunderbolt, that the Gentleman that was gone in was——

Cha. Was it you that told him, Sir? (*Laying hold of him*)'Sdeath, I could crush thee into Atoms.

[*Exit Charles.*]

Marp. What? will you choak me for my Kindness? ———will my enquiring Soul never leave searching into other People's Affairs, till it gets squeez'd out of my Body? I dare not follow him now, for my Blood, he's in such a Passion——I'll to *Miranda*; if I can discover aught that may oblige Sir George, it may be a means to reconcile me again to *Charles*.

Enter Sir Jealous and Servants.

Sir Jeal. Are you sure you have search'd every where?

Serv. Yes, from the Top of the House to the Bottom.

Sir Jeal. Under the Beds, and over the Beds?

Serv. Yes, and in them too, but found no Body, Sir.

Sir Jeal. Why, what cou'd this Rogue mean?

Enter Isabinda and Patch.

Patch. Take Courage, Madam, I saw him safe out.

[*Aside to Isabe*

Isab. Bless me! what's the matter, Sir?

Sir Jeal. You know best———Pray where's the Man that was here just now?

Isab. What Man, Sir? I saw none!

Patch. Nor I, by the Trust you repose in me; do you think I wou'd let a Man come within these Doors when you are absent?

Sir Jeal. Ah, *Patch*, she may be too cunning for thy Honesty; the very Scout that he had set to give Warning, discover'd it to me———and threaten'd me with half a dozen *Myrmidons*———But I think I maul'd the Villain. These Afflictions you draw upon me, Mistress!

Isab. Pardon me, Sir, 'tis your own ridiculous Humour draws you into these Vexations, and gives every Fool Pretence to banter you.

Sir Jeal. No, 'tis your idle Conduct, your coquetish

quietish Flurting in the Balcony———Oh with what Joy shall I resign thee into the Arms of Don Diego Babinetto.

Ifab. And with what Industry shall I avoid him!

[*Aside.*

Sir Jeal. Certainly that Rogue had a Message from some Body or other; but being baulk'd by my coming, popt that Sham upon me. Come along, ye Sots, let's see if we can find the Dog again. *Patch*, lock her up; d'ye hear?

[*Exit with Servants.*

Patch. Yes, Sir—ay, walk till your Heels ake you'll find no Body, I promise you.

Ifab. Who could that Scout be, which he talks of?

Patch. Nay, I can't imagine, without it was *Whisper*.

Ifab. Well, dear *Patch*, let's employ all our Thoughts how to escape this horrid Don Diego, my very Heart sinks at his terrible Name.

Patch. Fear not, Madam, Don Carlos, shall be the Man, or I'll lose the Reputation of Contriving; and then what's a Chambermaid good for?

Ifab. Say'st thou so, my Girl: Then——

Let Dad be jealous, multiply his Cares,

While Love instructs me to avoid the Snarcs;

I'll, spight of all his Spanish caution, show

How much for Love a British Maid can do.

[*Exit.*

SCENE *Sir Francis Gripe's House.*

Sir Francis and Miranda meeting.

Miran. Well, *Guardee*, how did I perform my dumb Scene?

Sir Fran. To Admiration———Thou dear little Rogue, let me buss thee for it: Nay, add, I will, *Chargee*, so muzzle, and tuzzle, and hug thee; I will, faith, I will.

[*Hugging and kissing her.*

Miran. Nay, *Guardee*, don't be so lavish. Who wou'd ride Post, when the Journey lasts for Life!

Sir Fran. Ah wag, ah wag—I'll buss thee again for that.

Miran. Faugh! how he stinks of Tobacco! what a delicate Bedfellow I should have!

Sir

Sir Fran. Oh! I'm transported! When, when, my Dear, wilt thou convince the World of thy happy Day? When shall we be merry, ha?

Miran. There's nothing wanting but your Consent, Sir Francis.

Sir Fran. My consent! What does my Charmer mean?

Miran. Nay, 'tis only a Whim: But I'll have every thing according to form—Therefore, when you sign an authentick Paper, drawn up by an able Lawyer, that I have your Leave to marry, the next Day makes me yours, *Guardee*.

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, ha, Whim indeed! Why, is it not Demonstration I give my Leave when I marry thee?

Miran. Not for your Reputation, *Guardee*; the malicious World will be apt to say, you trick'd me into Marriage, and sotake the Merit from my Choice. Now I will have the Act my own, to let the idle Fops see how much I prefer a Man loaded with Years and Wisdom.

Sir Fran. Humph! Prithee leave out Years, *Chargee*, I'm not so old as thou shalt find: Adod, I'm young; there's a Caper for you. [*Jumps*.

Miran. Oh never excuse it, why I like you the better for being old—But I shall suspect you don't love, if you refuse me this Formality.

Sir Fran. Not love thee, *Chargee*! Adod, I do love thee better than, than, than, better than—what shall I say? Egad, better than Money, I faith I do—

Miran. That's false I'm sure (*Aside*.) To prove it, do this then.

Sir Fran. Well, I will do it, *Chargee*, provided I bring a License at the same time.

Miran. Ay, and a Parson too, if you please; Ha, ha, ha, I can't help laughing to think how all the young Coxcombs about Town will be mortify'd when they hear of our Marriage.

Sir Fran. So they will, so they will, Ha, ha, ha.

Miran. Well, I fancy I shall be so happy with my *Guardee*!

Sir Fran. If wearing Pearls and Jewels, or eating Gold,

Gold, as the old Saying is, can make thee happy. thou shalt be so, my sweetest, my lovely, my charming, my———verily I know not what to call thee.

Miran. You must know, *Guardee*, that I am so eager to have this Business concluded, that I have employ'd my Woman's Brother, who is a Lawyer in the Temple, to settle Matters just to your liking you are to give your Consent to my Marriage, which is to yourself you know: But Mum, you must take no notice of that. So then I will, that is, with your Leave, put my Writings into his Hands; then To-morrow we come slap upon them with a Wedding that no Body thought on; by which you seize me and my Estate, and, I suppose, make a Bonfire of your own Act and Deed.

Sir Fran. Nay but, *Chargee*, if———

Miran. Nay, *Guardee*, no ifs———Have I refus'd three Northern Lords, two *British* Peers, and half a score Knights, to have you put in your ifs?

Sir Fran. So thou hast, indeed, and I will trust to thy Management. Od, I'm all of a Fire.

Miran. 'Tis a wonder the dry Stubble does not blaze.

Enter Marplot.

Sir Fran. How now! who sent for you, Sir? What's the hundred Pound gone already?

Marp. No, Sir, I don't want Money now.

Sir Fran. No; that's a Miracle! but there's one thing you want, I'm sure.

Marp. Ay, what's that, Guardian?

Sir Fran. Manners. What, had I no Servants without?

Marp. None that cou'd do my Business, Guardian, which is at present with this Lady.

Miran. With me, Mr. *Marplot*! what is it, I beseech you?

Sir Fran. Ay, Sir, what is it? any thing that relates to her may be deliver'd to me.

Marp. I deny that.

Miran. That's more than I do, Sir.

Marp. Indeed, Madam; why then to proceed: Fame says that you and my most conscionable Guardian

dian have design'd, contriv'd, plotted, and agreed, to chouse a very civil, honourable, honest Gentleman, out of a hundred Pound.

Miran. That I contriv'd it !

Marp. Ay you—You said never a word against it, so far you are guilty.

Sir Fran. Pray tell that civil, honourable, honest Gentleman, that if he has any more such Sums to fool away, they shall be received like the last ; Ha, ha, ha, chous'd, quotha ! But hark ye, let him know at the same time, that if he dare to report I trick'd him of it, I shall recommend a Lawyer to him shall shew him a Trick for twice as much ; D'ye hear ? Tell him that.

Marp. So, and is this the way you use a Gentleman, and my Friend ?

Miran. Is the Wretch thy Friend ?

Marp. The Wretch ! look ye, Madam, don't call Names ; Egad I won't take it.

Miran. Why, you won't beat me, will you ? Ha, ha.

Marp. I don't know whether I will or no.

Sir Fran. Sir, I shall make a Servant shew you out at the Window, if you are saucy.

Marp. I am your most humble Servant, Guardian ; I design to go out the same way I came in. I wou'd only ask this Lady, if she does not think in her Soul Sir George Airy is not a fine Gentleman.

Miran. He dresses well.

Sir Fran. Which is chiefly owing to his Taylor and Valet de Chambre.

Miran. And if you allow that a Proof of his being a fine Gentleman, he is so.

Marp. The judicious Part of the World allow him Wit, Courage, Gallantry, and Management ; tho' I think he forfeited that Character, when he flung away a hundred Pound upon your dumb Ladyship.

Sir Fran. Does that gaul him ? ha, ha, ha.

Miran. So Sir George, remaining in deep Discontent, hath sent you, his trusty Squire, to utter his Complaint : Ha, ha, ha.

Marp. Yes, Madam ; and you, like a cruel, hard-

hearted Jew value it no more——than I wou'd your Ladyship, were I Sir George, you, you, you——

Miran. Oh, don't call Names. I know you love to be employ'd, and I'll oblige you, and you shall carry him a Message from me.

Marp. According as I like it: What is it?

Miran. Nay, a kind one you may be sure——First tell him, I have chose this Gentleman to have, and to hold, and so forth.

[Clapping her Hand into Sir Francis's.

Sir Fran. Oh the dear Rogue, how I doat on her!

[*Aside.*

Miran. And advise his Impertinence to trouble me no more, for I prefer Sir Francis for a Husband before all the Fops in the Universe.

Marp. Oh Lord, Oh Lord! she's bewitch'd, that's certain; here's a Husband for Eighteen——Here's a Shape——Here's Bones a rattling in a Leathern Bag. [Turning Sir Francis about] Here's Buckram and Canvass to scrub you to Repentance.

Sir Fran. Sirrah, my Cane shall teach you Repentance presently.

Marp. No Faith, I have felt his Twin-brother from such a wither'd Hand too lately.

Miran. One thing more; advise him to keep from the Garden Gate on the left Hand; for if he dare to saunter there, about the Hour of Eight, as he used to do, he shall be saluted with a Pistol or Blunderbuss.

Sir Fran. O monstrous! why *Chargee*, did he use to come to the Garden Gate?

Miran. The Gardener describ'd just such another Man that always watch'd his coming out, and fain wou'd have brib'd him for his Entrance——Tell him he shall find a warm Reception if he comes this Night.

Marp. Pistols and Blunderbusses? Egad, a warm Reception indeed; I shall take care to inform him of your Kindness, and to advise him to keep farther off.

Miran. I hope he will understand my meaning better, than to follow your Advice.

[*Aside.*

Sir Fran. Thou hast sign'd, seal'd, and taken Possession of my Heart for ever, *Chargee*, Ha, ha, ha; and for you, Mr. Sauce-Box, let me have no more of your

your Messages, if ever you design to inherit your Estate, Gentleman.

Marp. Why there 'tis now. Sure I shall be out of your Clutches one Day——Well, *Guardian*, I say no more; but if you be not as arrant a Cuckold, as e'er drove Bargain upon the Exchange, or paid Attendance to a Court, I am the Son of a Whet-Stone; and so your humble Servant. *[Exit.]*

Miran. Don't forget the Message; Ha, ha!

Sir Fran. I am so provok'd! 'tis well he's gone.

Miran. Oh mind him not, *Guardee*, but let's sign Articles, and then——

Sir Fran. And then——Adod, I believe I am metamorphosed; my Pulse beats high, and my blood boils, methinks.——*[Kissing and hugging her.]*

Miran. O fye, *Guardee*, be not so violent; consider the Market lasts all the Year——Well, I'll in and see if the Lawyer be come, you'll follow. *[Exit.]*

Sir Fran. Ay, to the World's End, my Dear. Well, *Frank*, thou art a lucky Fellow in thy old Age, to have such a delicate Morsel and Thirty Thousand Pound in Love with thee; I shall be the Envy of the Batchelors, the Glory of marry'd Men, and the Wonder of the Town. Some Guardians would be glad to compound for part of the estate, at dispatching an Heiress, but I engross the whole: O! *Mihi præteritos referat si Jupiter Annos!*

S C E N E *Changes to a Tavern; discovers Sir George and Charles with Wine before them, Whisper waiting.*

Sir Geo. Nay, prithee don't be grave, *Charles*; Misfortunes will happen Ha, ha, ha, 'tis some Comfort to have a Companion in our Sufferings.

Cha. I am only apprehensive for *Isabinda*, her Father's Humour is implacable; and how far his Jealousy may transport him to her Undoing, shocks my Soul to think.

Sir Geo. But since you escap'd undiscover'd by him, his Rage will quickly lash into a Calm, never fear it.

Cha. But who knows what that unlucky Dog,
D 3 *Marplot,*

Marplot, told him; nor can I imagine what brought him thither; that Fellow is ever doing Mischief; and yet, to give him his due, he never designs it. This is some blundering Adventure, wherein he thought to shew his Friendship, as he calls it; a Curse on him.

Sir Geo. Then you must forgive him; what said he?

Cha. Said! nay, I had more mind to cut your Throat, than hear his Excuses.

Sir Geo. Where is he.

Whisp. Sir, I saw him go into *Sir Francis Gripe's* just now.

Cha. Oh! then he's upon your Business, *Sir George*; a thousand to one but he makes some mistake there too.

Sir Geo. Impossible, without he huffs the Lady, and makes love to *Sir Francis*.

Enter Drawer.

Draw. Mr. *Marplot* is below, Gentlemen, and desires to know if he may have Leave to wait upon ye.

Cha. How civil the Rogue is when he has done a Fault!

Sir Geo. Ha! desire him to walk up. Prithce, *Charles*, throw off this Chagrin, and be good Company.

Cha. Nay, hang him, I'm not angry with him.

Whisper. fetch me Pen, Ink, and Paper.

Whisp. Yes, Sir.

Enter Marplot.

Chi. Do but mark his sheepish Look *Sir George*.

Marp. Dear *Charles*, don't o'erwhelm a Man—already under unsupportable Affliction. I'm sure I always intended to serve my friends; but if my malicious Stars deny the Happiness, is the Fault mine?

Sir Geo. Never mind him, Mr. *Marplot*; he is eat up with Spleen. But tell me, what says *Miranda*?

Marp. Says—nay, we are all undone there too.

Cha. I told you so; nothing prospers that he undertakes.

Marp. Why can I help her having chose your Father, for Better for Worse?

Cha. So: There's another of Fortune's Strokes. I suppose

suppose I shall be edg'd out of my Estate with Twins every Year, let who will get 'em.

Sir Geo. What, is the woman really posselt?

Marp. Yes, with the Spirit of Contradiction, she rail'd at you most prodigiously.

Sir Geo. That's no ill Sign.

Enter Whisper, with Pen, Ink and Paper.

Marp. You'd say it was no good Sign, if you knew all.

Sir Geo. Why, prithee?

Marp. Hark'e, Sir George, let me warn you, pursue your old Haunt no more, it may be dangerous.

[Charles sits down to write.]

Sir Geo. My old Haunt, what do you mean?

Marp. Why, in short then, since you will have it, *Miranda* vows if you dare approach the Garden Gate at Eight o'Clock, as you us'd you shall be saluted with a Blunderbuss, Sir. These were her Words; nay, she bid me tell you so too.

Sir Geo. Ha! the Garden-Gate at Eight, as I us'd to do! There must be a Meaning in this. Is there such a Gate, *Charles*?

Cha. Yes, yes; it opens into the Park; I suppose her Ladyship has made many a scamper through it.

Sir Geo. It must be an Assignment then. Ha! my Heart springs with Joy, 'tis a propitious Omen. My dear *Marplot*, let me embrace thee, thou art my Friend, my better Angel—

Marplot. What do you mean, Sir George?

Sir Geo. No matter what I mean. Here, take a Bumper to the Garden-Gate, ye dear Rogue you.

Marp. You have Reason to be transported, Sir George, I have sav'd your Life.

Sir Geo. My Life! thou hast sav'd my Soul, Man.—*Charles*, if thou dost not pledge his Health, may'st thou never taste the joys of Love.

Cha. *Whisper*, be sure you take care how you deliver this *[Gives him the Letter]* bring me the Answer to my Lodgings.

Whisp. I warrant you, Sir.

Marp. Whither does that Letter go?—Now dare I not ask for my Blood.

Cha.

Cha. Now I'm for you.

Sir Geo. To the Garden Gate at the Hour of Eight, *Charles*, along, Huzza!

Cha. I begin to conceive you.

Marp. That's more than I do, Egad ——— to the Garden Gate, Huzza, (*Drinks.*) But I hope you design to keep far enough off on't, *Sir George*.

Sir Geo. Ay, ay, never fear that; she shall see I despise her Frowns; let her use her Blunderbuse against the next Fool, she shan't reach me with the Sinoak, I warrant her, Ha, ha, ha.

Marp. Ah, *Charles*, if you cou'd receive a Disappointment thus, *En Cavalier*, one shou'd have some Comfort in being beat for you.

Cha. The Fool comprehends nothing.

Sir Geo. Nor wou'd I have him; prithee take him along with thee.

Cha. Enough: *Marplot*, you shall go home with me.

Marp. I'm glad I'm well with him however. *Sir George*, yours. Egad, *Charles*, asking me to go home with him, gives me a shrewd Suspicion there's more in the Garden Gate than I comprehend. Faith, I'll give him the Drop, and away to *Guardian's*, and find it out.

Sir Geo. I kiss both your Hands—And now for the Garden-Gate.

It's Beauty gives the Assignment there,

And Love too powerful grows t'admit of Fear. [Exit.

The End of the Third A C T.

A C T IV.

SCENE, the Outside of *Sir Jealous Traffick's House*, *Patch* peeping out of the Door.

Enter Whisper.

Whisp. **H**A, Mrs. *Patch*, this is a lucky Minute, to find you so readily, my Master dies with Impatience.

Patch. My Lady imagin'd so, and by her Orders I have been scouting this Hour in search of you, to inform

inform you, that Sir *Jealous* has invited some Friends to Supper with him to Night, which gives an Opportunity to your Master to make use of his Ladder of Ropes: The Closet Window shall be open, and *Isabella* ready to receive him; bid him come immediately.

Whisp. Excellent! He'll not disappoint. I warrant him: But hold, I have a Letter here, which I'm to carry an Answer of. I can't think what Language the Direction is.

Patch. Pho, 'tis no Language, but a Character which the Lovers invented to avert Discovery. Ha, I hear my old Master coming down Stairs, it is impossible you shou'd have an Answer; away and bid him come himself for that—begone, we are ruin'd if you're seen, for he has doubled his care since the last Accident.

Whisp. I go, I go.

[Exit.

Patch. There go thou into my Pocket. (*Puts it beside, and it falls down.*) Now I'll up the Back-Stairs, lest I meet him. Well, a dextrous Chamber-Maid is the Ladies best Utensil, I say.

[Exit.

Enter Sir Jealous with a Letter in his Hand.

Sir Jeal. So, this is the Comfort; this tells me that *Seignor Don Diego Babinetto* is safely arriv'd he shall marry my Daughter the Minute he comes, ha! What's here? (*Takes up the Letter Patch drop'd.*) A Letter! I don't know what to make of the Superscription I'll see what's within side, (*Opens it.*) humph; 'tis *Hebrew*, I think. What can this mean? There must be some Tricks in it; this was certainly design'd for my Daughter, but I don't know that she can speak any Language but her Mother-Tongue. No matter for that, this may be one of Love's Hieroglyphicks, and I fancy I saw *Patch's* Tail sweep by: That Wench may be a Slut, and instead of guarding my Honour, betray it; I'll find it out, I'm resolv'd; who's there?

Enter Servant.

What answer did you bring from the Gentlemen I sent you to invite?

Serv. That they'd all wait of you, Sir, as I told you before, but I suppose you forgot, Sir.

Sir

Sir *Jeal*. Did I so, Sir? but I shan't forget to break your Head, if any of them come, Sir.

Serv. Come, Sir! why did you not send me to desire their Company, Sir?

Sir *Jeal*. But I send you now to desire their Absence; say I have something extraordinary fallen out, which calls me abroad contrary to Expectation, and ask their Pardon, and dy'e hear, send the Butler to me.

Serv. Yes, Sir.

Enter Butler.

Sir *Jeal*. If this Paper has a Meaning, I'll find it. Lay the Cloth in my Daughter's Chamber, and bid the Cook send Supper thither presently.

But. Yes Sir——Hey day, what's the matter now? [*Exit.*]

Sir *Jeal*. He wants the Eyes of *Argus*, that has a young handsome Daughter in this Town; but my Comfort is, I shall not be troubled long with her. He that pretends to rule a Girl once in her Teens, had better be at Sea in a Storm, and wou'd be in less Danger;

*For let him do and counsel all he can,
She thinks and dreams of nothing else but Man.* [Exit.]

SCENE *Isabinda's Chamber.*

Isabinda and Patch.

Isab. Are you sure no Body saw you speak to *Whisper*?

Patch. Yes, very sure, Madam; but I heard Sir *Jealous* coming down Stairs, so I clapt this Letter into my Pocket. [*Feels for the Letter.*]

Isab. A Letter! give it me quickly.

Patch. Bless me! what's become on't——I'm sure I put it----- [*Searching still.*]

Isab. Is it possible thou could'st be so careless?—Oh! I am undone for ever if it be lost.

Patch. I must have dropp'd it upon the Stairs. But why are you so much alarm'd? If the worst happens, no Body can read it, Madam, nor find out whom it was design'd for.

Isab. If it falls into my Father's Hands, the very Figure of a Letter will produce ill Consequences. Run, and look for it upon the Stairs this Moment. *Patch.*

Patch. Nay, I'm sure it can be no where else-----
[*As she's going out of the Door she meets the Butler*] How now, what do you want?

Butl. My Master order'd me to lay the Cloth here for his Supper.

Ifab. Ruin'd! past Redemption----- [Aside.

Patch. You mistake, sure; what shall we do?

Ifab. I thought he expected Company to Night-----
Oh! poor *Charles*-----Oh! unfortunate *Ifabinda*.

Butl. I thought so too, Madam, but I suppose he has alter'd his Mind. [Lays the Cloth and Exit.

Ifab. The Letter is the Cause; this heedless Action has undone me: Fly and fasten the Closet Window, which will give *Charles* Notice to retire-----Ha, my Father, Oh! Confusion.

Enter Sir Jealous.

Sir Jeal. Hold, hold, *Patch*, whither are you going? I'll have no Body stir out of the Room till after Supper.

Patch. Sir, I was only going to reach your easy Chair-----Oh! wretched Accident!

Sir Jeal. I'll have no Body stir out of the Room.-----
I don't want my easy Chair.

Ifab. What will be the Event of this? [Aside.

Sir Jeal. Hark'ye, Daughter; Do you know this Hand?

Ifab. As I suspected-----Hand do you call it, Sir? 'Tis some School-Boy's Scrawl.

Patch. Oh! Invention, thou Chamber-maid's best Friend assist me.

Sir Jeal. Are you sure you don't understand it?

[*Patch feels in her bosom and shakes her Cloaths.*

Ifab. Do you understand it, Sir?

Sir Jeal. I wish I did.

Ifab. Thank Heaven you do not. [Aside.] Then I know no more of it than you do, indeed, Sir.

Patch. O Lord, O Lord, what have you done, Sir? Why, the Paper is mine, I dropt it out of my Bosom. [Snatching it from him.

Sir Jeal. Hah! yours, Mistress.

Ifab. What does she mean by owning it? [Aside.

Patch. Yes, Sir, it is.

Sir

Sir Jeal. What is it? speak.

Patch Why, Sir, it is a Charm for the Tooth-ach.
—I have worn it these seven Years; 'twas given me by an Angel, for aught I know, when I was raving with the Pain; for no body knew from whence he came, nor whither he went: He charg'd me never to open it, lest some dire Vengeance betal me, and Heaven knows what will be the Event. Oh! cruel Misfortune that I should drop it, and you should open it— if you had not open'd it—

Isab. Excellent Wench! [*Aside.*]

Sir Jeal. Pox of your Charms and Whims for me; if that be all, 'tis well enough; there, there, burn it, and I warrant you no Vengeance will follow.

Patch. So, all's right thus far. [*Aside.*]

Isab. I would not lose *Patch* for the World—I'll take Courage a little (*aside.*) Is this Usage for your Daughter, Sir? Must my Virtue and Conduct be suspected for every Trifle? You immure me like some dire Offender here, and deny me all Recreations which my Sex enjoy, and the Custom of the Country and Modesty allow; yet not content with that, you make my Confinement more intolerable by your Mistrusts and Jealousies: wou'd I were dead, so I were free from this.

(*Weeps.*)

Sir Jeal. To-morrow rids you of this tiresome Load —*Don Diego Rabinetto* will be here, and then my Care ends, and his begins.

Isab. Is he come then? O, how shall I avoid this hated Marriage?

Enter Servants with Supper.

Sir Jeal. Come, will you sit down?

Isab. I can't eat, Sir.

Patch. No, I dare swear he has given her Supper enough. I wish I could get into the Closet [*Aside.*]

Sir Jeal. Well, if you can't eat, then give me a Song whilst I do.

Isab. I have such a Cold, I can scarce speak, Sir, much less sing. How shall I prevent *Charles* coming in? [*Aside.*]

Sir Jeal. I hope you have the Use of your Fingers, Madam. Play a Tune upon your Spinnet, whilst your Woman sings me a Song.

Patch.

Patch. I'm as much out of Tune as my Lady, if he knew all. *[Aside]*

Isab. I shall make excellent Musick.

[Sits down to play.]

Patch. Really, Sir, I'm so frighted about your opening this Charm, that I can't remember one Song.

Sir Jeal. Pish, hang your Charm: Come, come, sing any Thing.

Patch. Yes, I'm likely to sing truly. *(Aside.)* Humph; humph, blefs me, Sir, I cannot raise my Voice, my Heart pants so.

Sir Jeal. Why, what does your Heart pant so that you can't play neither? Pray what Key are you in, ha?

Patch. Ah, wou'd the Key was turned of you once. *[Aside.]*

Sir Jeal. Why don't you sing, I say?

Patch. When Madam has put her Spinnet in Tune, Sir; Humph, humph——

Isab. I cannot play Sir, whatever ails me.

[Rising.]

Sir Jeal. Zounds, sit down and play me a Tune, or I'll break the Spinnet about your Ears.

Isab. What will become of me?

[Sits down and plays.]

Sir Jeal. Come, Mistress.

[To Patch.]

Patch. Yes, Sir. *(Sings, but horridly out of Tune.)*

Sir Jeal. Hey, hey, why you are at the Top of the House, and you are down in the Cellar. What is the Meaning of this? is it on Purpose to cross me, ha?

Patch. Pray, Madam, take it a little lower, I cannot reach that Note——nor any Note I fear.

Isab. Well, begin———Oh, Patch, we shall be discovered.

Patch. I sink with the Apprehension, Madam———humph, humph——— *(Sings.)*

[Charles pulls open the Closet door.]

Cha. Musick and Singing

'Tis thus the bright celestial Court above,

Beguiles the Hours with Music and with Love.

Death! her Father there. *(The Women shriek.)* Then I must fly———*(Exit into the Closet. Sir Jealous rises up hastily, seeing Charles slip back into the Closet.)*

Sir Jeal. Hell and Furies, a man in the Closet!—

Patch. Ah! a Ghost, a Ghost—he must not enter the Closet. (*Isabinda throws herself down before the Closet Door, as in a Swoon.*)

Sir Jeal. The Devil! I'll make a Ghost, of him, I warrant you. (*Strives to get by.*)

Patch. Oh, hold, Sir, have a Care, you'll tread upon my Lady—who waits there? Bring some Water: Oh! this comes of your opening the Charin: Oh, oh, oh, oh.

Sir Jeal. I'll charm you, Hufwife, here lies the charm that conjur'd this Fellow in, I'm sure on't. Come out, you Rascal, do so; Zounds, take her from the Door, or I'll spurn her from it, and break your Neck down Stairs.

Isab. Oh, oh, where am I—He's gone. I heard him leap down. (*aside to Patch.*)

Patch. Nay, then let him enter—Here, here, Madam, smell to this; come give me your Hand; come nearer to the Window, the Air will do you good

Sir Jeal. I wou'd she were in her Grave. Where are you, Sirrah? Villain, Robber of my House! I'll pull you out of your Nest. (*Goes into the Closet.*)

Patch. You'll be mistaken, old Gentleman, the Bird is flown.

Isab. I'm glad I have escaped so well. I was almost dead in earnest with the Fright.

Re-enter Sir Jealous out of the Closet.

Sir Jeal. Whoever the Dog was, he has escap'd out of the Window, for the Sash is up. But tho' he is got out of my Reach, you are not: And first, Mrs. Pandar, with your Charms for the Tooth-ach, get out of my House, go, troop; yet hold, stay, I'll lee you out of my Doors myself, but I'll secure your Charge ere I go.

Isab. What do you mean, Sir? Was she not a Creature of your own providing?

Sir Jeal. She was of the Devil's providing for aught I know

Patch. What have I done, Sir, to merit your Displeasure?

Sir Jeal. I don't know which of you have done it; but

but you shall both suffer for it, till I can discover whose Guilt it is: Go, get in there, I'll move you from this side of the House. (*Pushes Ifabinda in at the Door, and locks it; puts the Key in his Pocket.*) I'll keep the Key myself: I'll try what Ghost will get into that Room. And now forsooth I'll wait on you down Stairs.

Patch. Ah, my poor Lady—Down Stairs, Sir, but I won't go out, Sir, till I have lock'd up my Cloaths.

Sir Jeal. If thou wert as naked as thou wert born, thou should'st not stay to put on a Smock. Come along, I say; when your Mistress is marry'd you shall have your Rags, and every thing that belongs to you; but till then—— [*Exit pulling her out.*]

Patch. Oh! barbarous Usage for nothing.

Re-enter at the lower End.

Sir Jeal. There, go, and come no more within sight of my Habitation these three Days, I charge you. [*Slaps the Door after her.*]

Patch. Did ever any Body see such an old Monster!

Enter Charles.

Patch. Oh! Mr. Charles, your affairs and mine are in an ill Posture.

Cha. I am inur'd to the Frowns of Fortune: But what has befall'n thee?

Patch. Sir Jealous, whose suspicious Nature's always on the watch; nay, even whilst one Eye sleeps, the other keeps Centinel; upon sight of you, flew into such a violent Passion, that I cou'd find no stratagem to appease him, but in spite of all Arguments lock'd his Daughter into his own Apartment, and turn'd me out of Doors.

Cha. Ha! oh, *Ifabinda*.

Patch. And swears she shall neither see Sun or Moon, till she is *Don Diego Babinetto's* Wife, who arrived last Night, and is expected with Impatience.

Cha. He dies; yes, by all the wrongs of Love he shall; here will I plant myself, and thro' my Breast he shall make his Passage, if he enters.

Patch. A most heroick Resolution. There might be Ways found out more to your Advantage. Policy is often preferr'd to open Force.

Cha. I apprehend you not.

Patch. What think you of personating this *Spaniard*, imposing upon the Father, and marrying your Mistress with his own Consent.

Cha. Say'st thou so, my Angel! Oh cou'd that be done, my Life to come wou'd be too short to recompense thee: But how can I do that, when I neither know what Ship he came in, or from what part of *Spain*; who recommends him, or how attended?

Patch. I can solve all this. He is from *Madrid*, his Father's Name *Don Pedro Questo Portento Babinetto*. Here's a Letter of his to Sir *Jealous*, which he dropt one day; you understand *Spanish*, and the Hand may be counterfeited: You conceive me, Sir.

Cha. My better Genius, thou hast revived my drooping Soul: I'll about it instantly. Come to my Lodgings, and we'll concert Matters. [Exeunt.

SCENE, a Garden Gate open, Scentwell waiting without.

Enter Sir George Airy.

Sir Geo. So, this is the Gate, and most invitingly open: If there shou'd be a Blunderbus here now, what a dreadful Ditty wou'd my Fall make for Fools; and what a Jest for the wits; how my name wou'd be roar'd about the Streets! Well, I'll venture all.

Scentw. Hift, hift, Sir George, Airy—— [Enters.

Sir Geo. A female Voice, thus far I'm safe, my Dear,

Scentw. No, I'm not your Dear. but I'll conduct you to her; give me your hand; you must go thro' many a dark Passage and dirty Step, before you arrive——

Sir Geo. I know I must before I arrive at Paradise; therefore be quick, my charming Guide.

Scentw. For aught you know: come, come, your Hand and away.

Sir Geo. Here, here, Child, you can't be half so swift as my Desires. [Exeunt,

SCENE, the House.

Enter Miranda.

Miran. Well, let me reason a little with my mad self. Now don't I transgress all Rules, to venture upon a Man without the Advice of the Grave and Wise; but then a rigid knavish Guardian who wou'd have martyr'd me!

me ! to whom ? Even to his nauseous self, or no Body—
Sir George, is one I have try'd in Conversation, inquir'd
into his Character, am satisfy'd in both. Then his
Love ! Who wou'd have given a Hundred Pound only
to have seen a Woman he had not infinitely lov'd ? So
I find my liking him has furnish'd me with Arguments
enough of his Side ; and now the only doubt remains
whether he will come or no.

Enter Scentwell.

Scentw. That's resolv'd, Madam, for here's the
Knight. *(Exit Scentwell.)*

Sir Geo. And do I once more behold that lovely
Object, whose Idea fills my Mind, and forms my
pleasing Dreams !

Miran. What, beginning again in Heroicks !——
Sir George, don't you remember how little Fruit your
last prodigal Oration produc'd ? not one bare single
Word in answer.

Sir Geo. Ha ! the Voice of my *Incognita*——Why
did you take ten thousand Ways to captivate a Heart
your Eyes alone had vanquish'd ?

Miran. Prithee no more of these Flights ; for your
Time's but short, and we must fall into Business : Do
you think we can agree on that same terrible Bugbear
Matrimony, without heartily repenting on both Sides ?

Sir Geo. It has been my Wish since first my longing
Eyes beheld you.

Miran. And your happy Ears drank the pleasing
News, I had Thirty Thousand Pound.

Sir Geo. Unkind ! Did I not offer you in those pur-
chas'd Minutes to run the risk of your Fortune, so you
wou'd but secure that lovely Person to my Arms.

Miran. Well, if you have such Love and Tendernefs,
(since our Wooing has been short) pray reserve our fu-
ture Days to let the World see we are Lovers after Wed-
lock ; 'twill be a Novelty——

Sir Geo. Hasten then, let's tie the Knot, and prove the
envy'd Pair——

Miran. Hold ! not so fast ; I have provided better
than to venture on dangerous Experiments head-long—
My Guardian, trusting to my dissembling Love, has
given up my Fortune to my own disposal ; but with

this Proviso, that he To-morrow Morning weds me. He is now gone to *Dottors Commons* for a License.

Sir Geo. Ha, a License!

Miran. But I have planted Emissaries that will infallibly take him down to *Epsom*, under pretence that a Brother Usurer of his is to make him his Executor: the Thing on Earth he covets.

Sir Geo. 'Tis his known Character.

Miran. Now my Instruments confirm him this Man is dying, and he sends me Word he goes this Minute: it must be To-morrow ere he can be undeceiv'd. That Time is ours.

Sir Geo. Let us improve it then, and settle on our coming Years, endless, endless Happiness.

Miran. I dare not stir till I hear he's on the Road---- then I and my Writings, the most material Point, are soon remov'd.

Sir Geo. I have one Favour to ask, if it lies in your Power, you wou'd be a Friend to poor *Charles*, tho' the Son of this tenacious Man: He is as free from all his Vices, as Nature and a good Education can make him; and what now I have vanity enough to hope will induce you, he is the Man on Earth I love.

Miran. I never was his Enemy, and only put it on as it help'd my Designs on his Father. If his Uncle's Estate ought to be in his Possession, which I shrewdly suspect, I may do him a singular Piece of Service.

Sir Geo. You are all Goodness.

Enter Scentwell.

Scentw. Oh, Madam; my Master and Mr. *Marplot* are just coming into the House.

Miran. Undone, undone! if he finds you here in this Crisis, all my Plots are unravell'd.

Sir Geo. What shall I do! can't I get back into the Garden?

Scentw. Oh, no! he comes up those Stairs.

Miran. Here, here, here! can you condescend to stand behind this Chimney Board, Sir George!

Sir Geo. Any where, any where, dear Madam, without Ceremony.

Scentw. Come, come, Sir; lie close-----

[*They put him behind the Chimney-Board.*

Enter

Enter Sir Francis and Marplot: Sir Francis peeling an Orange.

Sir Fran. I cou'd not go, tho' it is upon Life and Death, without taking Leave of dear Chargee. Besides, this Fellow buz'd in my Ears, that thou mightest be so desperate to shoot that wild Rake which haunts the Garden Gate; and that wou'd bring us into Trouble, Dear——

Miran. So Marplot brought you back then; I'm oblig'd to him for that, I'm sure. [*Frowning at Marplot aside.*]

Marp. By her looks she means she is not oblig'd to me. I have done some Mischief now, but what I can't imagine.

Sir Fran. Well, Chargee, I have had three Messengers, to come to Epsom to my Neighbour Squeezum's who for all his vast Riches is departing. (*Sighs.*)

Marp. Ay, see what all you Usurers must come to.

Sir Fran. Peace, ye young knave; some forty Years hence I may think on't——But, Chargee, I'll be with thee To-morrow, before those pretty Eyes are open; I will, I will, Chargee, I'll rouze you, i'faith——Here, Mrs. Scentwell, lift up your Lady's Chimney-Board, that I may throw my Peel in, and not litter her Chamber.

Miran. Oh my Stars! what will become of us now?

Scentw. Oh, pray, Sir, give it me; I love it above all Things in Nature, indeed I do.

Sir Fran. No, no, Huffy; you have the Green Pip already, I'll have no more Apothecary's Bills.

[*Goes towards the Chimney.*]

Miran. Hold, hold, hold, dear Guardee, I have a, a, a Monkey shut up there; and if you open it before the Man comes that is to tame it, 'tis so wild 'twill break all my China, or get away, and that wou'd break my Heart; for I am fond on't to Distraction, next thee, dear Guardee.

[*In a flattering Tone.*]

Sir Fran. Well, well, Chargee, I won't open it; she shall have her Monkey, poor Rogue: here, throw this Peel out of the Window. [*Exit Scentwell.*]

Miran. A Monkey, dear Madam, let me see; I can tame a Monkey as well as the best of them all. Oh, how I love the little Miniatures of Man!

Miran.

Miran. Be quiet, Mischief, and stand farther from the Chimney——You shall not see my Monkey——why sure———
[Striving with him.]

Marp. For Heaven's Sake, Madam, let me but peep, to see if it be as pretty as my Lady Fiddle Faddle's. Has it got a Chain?

Miran. Not yet, but I design it one shall last its Lifetime: Nay, you shall not see it——Look, *Guardee*, how he teizes me!

Sir Fran. [Getting between him and the Chimney.] Sirrah, Sirrah, let my *Chargee's* Monkey alone, or *Bambo* shall fly about your Ears. What, is there no dealing with you?

Marp. Pugh, pox of the Monkey; here's a Rout: I wish he may rival you.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Sir, they put two more Horses in the Coach, as you order'd, and 'tis ready at the Door.

Sir Fran. Well, I am going to be Executor, better for thee, Jewel. B'ye, *Chargee*; one Buß!——I'm glad thou hast got a Monkey to divert thee a little.

Miran. Thank'e, dear *Guardee*———Nay, I'll see you to the Coach.

Sir Fran. That's kind, Adod.

Miran. Come along, Impertinence. [To Marplot.]

Marp. [Stepping back] Egad, I will see the Monkey now. [Lifts up the Board and discovers Sir George] Oh Lord! Oh Lord! Thieves, Thieves, Robbers!

Sir Geo. Dam'e, you unlucky Dog, 'tis I; which way shall I get out? shew me instantly, or I'll cut your Throat.

Marp. Undone, undone! At that Door there. But hold, hold, break that *China*, and I'll bring you off.

[He runs off at the Corner, and throws down some *China*.]

Re enter Sir Francis, Miranda, and Scentwell.

Sir Fran. Mercy on me! what's the matter?

Miran. Oh you Toad! what have you done?

Marp. No great harm, I beg of you to forgive me: Longing to see the Monkey, I did but just raise up the Board, and it flew over my Shoulders, scratch'd all my Face, broke yon *China*, and whisk'd out of the Window.

Sir

Sir Fran. Was ever such an unlucky Rogue ! Sirrah, I forbid you my House. Call the Servants to get the Monkey again ; I would stay myself to look it, but that you know my earnest Business.

Scentw. Oh my Lady will be the best to lure it back ; all them Creatures love my Lady extremely.

Miran. Go, do, dear *Guardee* ; I hope I shall recover it.

Sir Fran. B'ye, b'ye, Dear'e. Ah, Mischief, how you look now ! b'ye, b'ye. [Exit.

Miran. *Scentwell*, see him in the Coach, and bring me Word.

Scent. Yes, Madam.

Miran. So, Sir, you have done your Friend a signal Piece of Service, I suppose.

Marp. Why, look you, Madam, if I have committed a Fault, thank yourself ; no Man is more serviceable when I'm let into a Secret, and none more unlucky at finding it out. Who could divine your Meaning, when you talked of a Blunderbuss ? who thought of a Rendezvous ? and when you talk'd of a Monkey, who the Devil thought of *Sir George* ?

Miran. A Sign you converse but little with our Sex, when you cannot reconcile Contradictions.

Enter Scentwell.

Scent. He's gone, Madam, as fast as the Coach and Six can carry him.

Enter Sir George.

Sir Geo. Then I may appear.

Marp. Dear *Sir George*, make my Peace ; on my Soul, I did not think of you.

Sir Geo. I dare swear thou did'st not. Madam, I beg you to forgive him.

Miran. Well, *Sir George*, if he can be secret.

Marp. Ods Heart, Madam, I'm as secret as a Priest when I'm trusted.

Sir Geo. Why 'tis with a Priest our Business is at present.

Scentw. Madam, here's Mrs. *Isabinda's* Woman to wait on you.

Miran. Bring her up.

Enter Patch.

How do'e, Mrs. *Patch* ? what News from your Lady ?

Patch.

Patch. That's for your private Ear, Madam. Sir George, there's a Friend of yours has an urgent Occasion for your Assistance.

Sir Geo. His Name?

Patch. Charles.

Marp. Ha! then there's something a foot that I know nothing of. I'll wait on you, Sir George.

Sir Geo. A third Person may not be proper perhaps; as soon as I have dispatched my own Affairs, I am at his Service. I'll send my Servant to tell him I'll wait upon him in half an Hour.

Miran. How came you employ'd in this Message, Mrs. Patch?

Patch. Want of Business, Madam; I am discharged by my Master, but hope to serve my Lady still.

Miran. How! discharg'd! you must tell me the whole Story within.

Patch. With all my Heart, Madam.

Marp. Pish! Pox! I wish I were fairly out of the House. I find Marriage is the end of this Secret: And now I'm half mad to know what Charles wants him for.

[*Aside.*

Sir Geo. Madam, I'm doubly press'd, by Love and Friendship: This Exigence admits of no Delay. Shall we make *Marplot* of the Party?

Miran. If you'll run the Hazard, Sir George; I believe he means well.

Marp. Nay, nay, for my Part I desire to be let into nothing: I'll begone, therefore pray don't mistrust me.

[*Going.*

Sir Geo. So now has he a Mind to be gone to Charles: But not knowing what Affairs he may have upon his Hands at present, I'm resolv'd he shan't stir: No, Mr. *Marplot*, you must not leave us, we want a third Person.

(*Takes hold of him.*

Marp. I never had more Mind to be gone in my Life.

Miran. Come along then; if we fail in the Voyage, thank yourself for taking this ill-starr'd Gentleman on Board.

Sir Geo. *That Vessel ne'er can unsuccessful prove,
Whose Freight is Beauty, and whose Pilot Love.*

The End of the Fourth ACT.

ACT

A C T V.

Enter Miranda, Patch. and Scentwell.

Miran. **W**ELL, Patch, I have done a strange bold thing; my Fate is determin'd, and Expectation is no more. Now to avoid the Impertinence and Roguery of an old Man, I have thrown myself into the Extravagance of a young one; if he should despise, slight, or use me ill, there's no Remedy from a Husband but the Grave; and that's a terrible Sanctuary to one of my Age and Constitution.

Patch. O fear not, Madam, you'll find your Account in Sir George Airy; it is impollible a Man of Sense should use a Woman ill, endued with Beauty, Wit, and Fortune. It must be the Lady's Fault, if she does not wear the unfashionable Name of Wifeeasy, when nothing but Complaisance and good Humour is requisite on either Side to make them happy.

Miran. I long till I am out of this House, lest any Accident should bring my Guardian back. Scentwell, put my best Jewels into the little Casket, slip them into thy Pocket, and let us march off to Sir Jealous's.

Scent. It shall be done, Madam. [Exit Scentwell.]

Patch. Sir George will be impatient, Madam; if their Plot succeeds, we shall be well received; if not he will be able to protect us. Besides, I long to know how my young Lady fares.

Miran. Farewell, old Mammon, and thy detested Walls; 'twill be no more sweet Sir Francis, I shall be compell'd to the odious Task of dissembling no longer to get my own, and to coax him with the wheedling Names of my Precious, my Dear, dear Guardee. O Heavens!

Enter Sir Francis behind.

Sir Fran. Ah, my sweet Chargee, don't be frighted. (she starts.) But thy poor Guardee has been abus'd, cheated, fool'd, betrayed, but nobody knows by whom.

Miran [aside.] Undone past Redemption.

Sir Fran. What, won't you speak to me, Chargee?

Miran. I'm so surprized with joy to see you, I know not what to say.

Sir Fran. Poor, dear Girl! But do'e know that my Son,

Son, or some such Rogue, to rob or murder me, or both, contriv'd this Journey? For upon the Road I met my Neighbour *Squeezum* well, and coming to Town.

Miran. Good lack, good lack! what Tricks are there in this World!

Enter Scentwell, with a Diamond Necklace in her Hand; not seeing Sir Francis.

Scent. Madam, be pleas'd to tie this Necklace on, for I can't get it into the ——— [Seeing Sir Fran.]

Miran. The Wench is a Fool, I think! cou'd you not have carried it to be mended without putting it in the Box?

Sir Fran. What's the Matter?

Miran. Only, Dear'e, I bid her, I bid her———
Your ill Usage has put every Thing out of my Head. But won't you go, *Guardee*, and find out these Fellows, and have them punished? and, and———

Sir Fran. Where should I look for them, Child? No, I'll sit me down contented with my Safety, nor stir out of my own Doors, till I go with thee to a Parson.

Miran [*aside.*] If he goes into his Closet I am ruin'd. Oh! bless me, in this Fright I had forgot Mrs. *Patch*.

Patch. Ay, Madam, and I stay for your speedy answer.

Miran. [*aside.*] I must get him out of the House. Now assist me, Fortune.

Sir Fran. Mrs. *Patch*, I profess I did not see you; how dost thou do, Mrs. *Patch*? Well, don't you repent leaving my *Chargee*?

Patch. Yes, every body must love her———but I came now——Madam, what did I come for? my Invention is at the lowest Ebb. [*Aside to Miran.*]

Sir Fran. Nay, never whisper, tell me.

Miran. She came, dear *Guardee*, to invite me to her Lady's Wedding, and you shall go with me, *Guardee*, 'tis to be done this Moment, to a *Spanish* Merchant; old Sir *Jealous* keeps on his Humour, the first Minute he sees her, the next he marries her.

Sir Fran. Ha, ha, ha! I'd go if I thought the Sight of Matrimony would tempt *Chargee* to perform her promise: There was a Smile, there was a consenting Look with those pretty Twinklers, worth a Million.

Ods

Ods prescious, I am happier than the Great Mogul, the Emperor of China, or all the Potentates that are not in Wars. Speak, confirm it, make me leap out of my Skin.

Miran. When one has resolv'd, 'tis in vain to stand shall I, shall I; if ever I marry positively this is my Wedding-Day.

Sir Fran. Oh! happy, happy Man!—Verily I will beget a Son the first Night, shall disinherit that Dog *Charles*. I have Estate enough to purchase a Barony, and be the immortalizing of the whole Family of the *Gripes*.

Miran. Come, then, *Guardee*, give me thy Hand, let's to this House of Hymen,

My Choice is fixed, let good or Ill betide.

Sir Fr. The joyful Bridegroom I,

Miran. And I the happy Bride.

Enter Sir Jealous, meeting a Servant.

Serv. Sir, here's a couple of Gentlemen enquire for you; one of them calls himself *Seignior Don Diego Babinetto*.

Sir Jeal. Ha! *Seignior Babinetto*! admit 'em instantly — Joyful Minute! I'll have my Daughter marry'd To-night.

Enter Charles in a Spanish Habit, with Sir George, dress'd like a Merchant

Sir Jeal. Senior, beso Las Manos vuestra merced es muy bien venido en esta tierra.

Char. Senhor, soy muy humilde, y muy obligado Cryado de vuestra merced; Mi Padre embia a vuestra merced, los mas profundos de sus respetos; y a Commissionade este *Mercadel Ingles*, de concluyr un Negocio, que me Haze el mas dichoso hombre del mundo, Haziendo me su yerno.

Sir Jeal. I am glad on't, for I find I have lost much of my Spanish. Sir, I am your most humble Servant. Senior Don Diego Babinetto has informed me that you are commissioned by Senior Don Pedro, &c. his worthy Father.

Sir Geo. To see an Affair of Marriage consummated between a Daughter of yours, and *Seignior Diego Babinetto* his Son here. True, Sir, such a Trust is repos'd
F in

in me, as that Letter will inform you. I hope 'twill pass upon him. (*aside.*) Gives him a Letter.

Sir *Jeal.* Ay, 'tis his Hand. (*Seems to read.*

Sir *Geo.* Good——you have counterfeited to a Nicety, *Charles.* [*Aside to Charles.*

Cha. If the whole Plot succeeds as well, I'm happy.

Sir *Jeal.* Sir, I find by this, that you are a Man of Honour and Probity; I think, Sir, he calls you *Meanwell.*

Sir *Geo.* *Meanwell* is my Name, Sir.

Sir *Jeal.* A very good Name, and very significant

Cha. Yes, faith, if he knew all. [*Aside.*

Sir *Jeal.* For to mean well, is to be honest, and to be honest is the Virtue of a Friend, and a Friend is the Delight and Support of human Society.

Sir *Geo.* You shall find that I'll discharge the Part of a Friend, in what I have undertaken, Sir *Jealous.*

Cha. But little does he think to whom. [*Aside.*

Sir *Geo.* Therefore, Sir, I must entreat the Presence of your fair Daughter, and the Assistance of your Chaplain; for *Senior Don Pedro* strictly enjoined me to see the Marriage Rites perform'd as soon as we should arrive, to avoid the accidental Overtures of *Venus.*

Sir *Jeal.* Overtures of *Venus*—

Sir *Geo.* Ay, Sir, that is, those little Hawking Females that traverse the Park, and the Play-house, to put off their damaged Ware—they fasten upon Foreigners like Leeches, and watch their Arrival as carefully as the *Kentish* men do a Shipwreck. I warrant you they have heard of him already.

Sir *Jeal.* Nay, I know this Town swarms with them.

Sir *Geo.* Ay, and then you know the *Spaniards* are naturally amorous, but very constant, the first Face fixes 'em and it may be dangerous to let him ramble ere he's tied.

Cha. Well hinted. [*Aside.*

Sir *Jeal.* Pat to my Purpose—Well, Sir, there is but one thing more, and they shall be married instantly.

Cha. Pray Heaven that one Thing more don't spoil all. [*Aside.*

Sir

Sir *Jeal.* Don *Pedro* writ me word in his last but one, that he designed the Sum of Five thousand Pounds by way of Jointure for my Daughter; and that it should be paid into my Hand upon the Day of Marriage.

Cha. Oh! the Devil! (*Aside.*)

Sir *Jeal.* In order to lodge it in some of our Funds, in case she should become a Widow and return to England.

Sir *Geo.* Pox on't this is an unlucky Turn. What shall I say? (*Aside.*)

Sir *Jeal.* And he does not mention one Word of it in his Letter.

Cha. I don't know how he should. [*Aside.*]

Sir *Geo.* Humph! True, Sir *Jealous*, he told me such a Thing, but, but, but—he, he, he—he did not imagine that you would insist upon the very Day, for, for, for Money you know is dangerous returning by Sea, an, an, an, an—

Cha. Zounds, say we have brought it in Commodities. (*Aside to Sir George.*)

Sir *Geo.* And so, Sir, he has sent it in Merchandize, Tobacco, Sugars, Spice, Lemons, and so forth, which shall be turned into Money with all Expedition: In the mean Time, Sir, if you please to accept of my Bond for Performance—

Sir *Jeal.* It is enough. I'm so pleas'd with the Countenance of *Seignior Diego*, and the Harmony of your Name, that I'll take your Word; and will fetch my Daughter this Moment. Within there (*Enter Servant*) desire Mr. *Tackum*, my Neighbour's Chaplain, to walk hither.

Serv. Yes, Sir. [*Exit.*]

Sir *Jeal.* Gentlemen, I'll return in an instant. (*Exit.*)

Cha. Wondrous well, let me embrace thee.

Sir *Geo.* Egad, that *geool.* had like to have ruined the Plot.

Cha. But that's over; and if Fortune throws no more rubs in our Way—

Sir *Geo.* Thou'lt carry the Prize—but hift, here he comes.

Enter Sir Jealous, dragging in Habinda.

Sir *Jeal.* Come along, you stubborn Baggage you, come along.

Isab. Oh, hear me Sir! hear me but speak one Word;
Do not destroy my everlasting Peace;
My Soul abhors this *Spaniard* you have chose,
Nor can I wed him without being curst.

Sir Jeal. How's that!

Isab. Let this Posture move your tender Nature.

(*Kneels.*)

For ever will I hang upon these Knees;
Nor loose my Hands, till you cut off my hold,
If you refuse to hear me, Sir.

Cha. Oh! that I could discover myself to her. [*Aside.*]

Sir Geo. Have a care what you do. You had better
trust to his Obstinacy. [*Aside.*]

Sir Jeal. Did you ever see such a perverse Slut? Off,
I say, Mr. *Mearwell*, pray help me a little.

Sir Geo. Rise, Madam, and do not disoblige your
Father, who has provided a Husband worthy of you,
one that will love you equal with his Soul, and one
that you will love when once you know him.

Isab. Oh! never, never! Could I suspect that Fals-
hood in my Heart, I would this Moment tear it from
my Breast.

Cha. Oh! my charming faithful Dear. (*Aside.*)

Sir Jeal. Falshood! why, who the Devil are you in
Love with? Ha! don't provoke me, for by St. *Jago*,
I shall beat you, Hufwife.

Cha. Heaven forbid; for I shall infallibly discover
myself if he should. (*Aside.*)

Sir Geo. Have Patience, Madam, and look at him:
Why will you prepossess yourself against a Man that is
Master of all the Charms you wou'd desire in a Husband?

Sir Jeal. Ay, look at him, *Isabinda*, Senior *pase*
and adelante.

Cha. My Heart bleeds to see her grieve, whom I
imagin'd would with joy receive me. *Seniora oblique*
me vuestra merced de sumano.

Sir Jeal. (*pulling up her Head.*) Hold up your
Head, hold up your Head, Hufwife, and look at him:
Is there a properer, handsomer, better-shap'd Fellow
in *England*, ye Jade you? Ha! see the obstinate
Baggage shuts her Eyes; by St. *Jago*, I have a good
Mind to beat 'em out. (*Pushes her down.*)

Isab.

Ifab. Do then, Sir, kill me, kill me instantly.
'Tis much the kinder Action of the Two,
For 'twill be worse than Death to wed him.

Sir Geo. *Sir Jealous*, you are too passionate. Give me Leave, I'll try by gentle Words to work her to your purpose.

Sir Jeal. I pray do, Mr. *Meanwell*, I pray do; she'll break my Heart (*Weeps*) There is in that, Jewels of the value of 3000*l.* which were her Mother's; and a Paper wherein I have settled one half of my Estate upon her now, and the whole when I dye; but provided she marries this Gentleman, else, by St. *Jago*, I'll turn her out of Doors to beg or starve. Tell her this, Mr. *Meanwell*, pray do. [*Walks off.*]

Sir Geo. Ha! this is beyond Expectation—Trust to me, Sir, I'll lay the dangerous Consequence of disobeying you, at this Juncture before her, I warrant you.

Cha. A sudden Joy runs thro' my Heart, like a propitious Omen. [*Aside.*]

Sir Geo. Come, Madam, do not blindly cast your Life away just in the Moment you would wish to save it.

Ifab. Pray cease your Trouble, Sir, I have no wish but sudden Death to free me from this hated *Spaniard*. If you are his Friend inform him what I say; my Heart is given to another Youth, whom I love with the same strength of Passion that I hate this *Diego*; with whom if I am forced to wed, my own Hand shall cut the Gordian Knot.

Sir Geo. Suppose this *Spaniard* which you strive to shun, should be the very Man to whom you'd fly?

Ifab. Ha!

Sir Geo. Would you not blame your rash Result, and curse those Eyes that would not look on *Charles*?

Ifab. On *Charles*! Oh, you have inspired new Life, and collected every wandering Sense. Where is he? Oh let me fly into his Arms. [*Rises.*]

Sir Geo. Hold, hold, hold. 'Sdeath, Madam, you'll ruin all; your Father believes him to be *Seignior Babinetto*. Compose yourself a little, pray Madam.

[*he runs to Sir Jealous.*]

Cha. Her Eyes declare she knows me.

[*Aside.*]

Sir Geo. She begins to hear Reason, Sir, the fear of being turned out of Doors has done it. [*Runs back to Isab.*]

Isab. 'Tis he, Oh! my ravish'd Soul.

Sir Geo. Take Heed, Madam, you don't betray yourself. Seem with Reluctance to consent, or you are undone. (*Runs to Sir Jealous*) Speak gently to her, Sir, I'm sure she'll yield, I see it in her Face.

Sir Jeal. Well, *Isabinda*, can you refuse to bless a Father, whose only Care is to make you happy, as Mr. *Meanwell* has inform'd you. Come, wipe thy Eyes; nay prithee do, or thou wilt break thy Father's Heart; see thou bring'st the Tears in mine, to think of thy undutiful Carriage to me. [*Weeps.*]

Isab. Oh, do not weep, Sir, your Tears are like a Poniard to my Soul, do with me what you please, I am all Obedience.

Sir Jeal. Ha! then thou art my Child again.

Sir Geo. 'Tis done, and now, Friend, the Day's thy own.

Cha. The happiest of my Life if nothing intervene.

Sir Jeal. And wilt thou love him?

Isab. I will endeavour it, Sir.

Enter Servant.

Serv. Sir, here's Mr. *Tackum*.

Sir Jeal. Shew him into the Parlour ——— *Seignior some vind sueipora; cete Momento les Juntta les Manos.*
(*gives her to Charles.*)

Cha. Oh! Transport ——— *Senior yo la recibo Como se deve un Tesora tan Grande.* Oh, my Joy, my Life, my Soul! (*embrace.*)

Isab. My faithful everlasting Comfort.

Sir Jeal. Now, Mr. *Meanwell*, let's to the Parson.

Who by his Art will join this Pair for Life,

Make me the happiest Father, her the happiest Wife. [*Exit.*]

SCENE changes to the Street, before Sir Jealous's Door.

Enter Marplot solus.

Marp. I have haunted all over the Town for Charles, but can't find him; and by *Whisper's* scouting at the End of the Street, I suspect he must be in this House again. I'm informed too that he has borrowed a *Spanish* Habit out of the Play-house: What can it mean?

Enter

Enter a Servant of Sir Jealous's to him, out of the House.

Hark'e, Sir, do you belong to this House?

Serv. Yes, Sir.

Marp. Pray can you tell if there be a Gentleman in it, in Spanish Habit.

Serv. There is a Spanish Gentleman within, that is just a going to marry my young Lady, Sir.

Marp. Are you sure he is a Spanish Gentleman?

Serv. I'm sure he speaks no English that I hear of.

Marp. Then that can't be him I want; for 'tis an English Gentleman, tho' I suppose he may be drest like a Spaniard, that I enquire after.

Serv. Ha! who knows but this may be an Impostor? I'll inform my Master; for if he should be impos'd upon, he'll beat us all round. (*Aside.*) Pray come in, Sir, and see if this be the Person you enquire for.

SCENE changes to the inside of the House.

Enter Marplot.

Marp. So, this was a good Contrivance: If this be Charles, now will he wonder how I found him out.

Enter Servant and Sir Jealous.

Sir Jeal. What is your earnest Business, Blockhead, that you must speak with me before the Ceremony's past? Ha! who's this?

Serv. Why this Gentleman, Sir, wants another in Spanish Habit, he says.

Sir Jeal. In Spanish Habit! 'tis some Friend of Scignior Don Diego's, I warrant. Sir, I suppose you wou'd speak with Seignior Babinetto. ———

Marp. Hey-day! what the Devil does he say now! — Sir, I don't understand you.

Sir Jeal. Don't you understand Spanish, Sir?

Marp. Not I, indeed, Sir.

Sir Jeal. I thought you had known Seignior Babinetto.

Marp. Not I, upon my Word, Sir.

Sir Jeal. What, then you'd speak with his Friend the English Merchant, Mr. Meanwell.

Marp. Neither, Sir; not I.

Sir Jeal. Why who are you then, Sir? And what do you want? [*In an angry Tone.*]

Marp. Nay, nothing at all, not I, Sir. Pox on him!

him! I wish I were out, he begins to exalt his Voice. I shall be beaten again.

Sir *Jeal.* Nothing at all, Sir! why then what Business have you in my House? ha?

Serv. You said you wanted a Gentleman in *Spanish* Habit.

Marp. Why, ay: but his Name is neither *Babinetto* nor *Meanwell*.

Sir *Jeal.* What is his Name then, Sirrah, ha? Now I look at you again, I believe you are the Rogue that threatened me with half a Dozen Myrmidons—Speak, Sir, who is it you look for? or, or —

Marp. A terrible old Dog! ——— Why, Sir, only an honest young Fellow of my Acquaintance ——— I thought that here might be a Bail, and that he might have been here in a Masquerade; 'tis *Charles*, Sir *Francis Gripe's* Son, because I knew he us'd to come hither sometimes.

Sir *Jeal.* Did he so? — Not that I know of, I'm sure. Pray Heaven that this be Don *Diego* — If I shou'd be trick'd now — Ha! my Heart misgives me plaguily ——— within there! stop the Marriage ——— Run, Sirrah, call all my Servants! I'll be satisfy'd that this is Seignior *Pedro's* Son, ere he has my Daughter.

Marp. Ha, Sir *George*, what have I done now?

Enter Sir George with a drawn Sword between the Scenes.

Sir *Geo.* Ha! *Marplot*, here — Oh the unlucky Dog ——— what's the matter, Sir *Jealous*?

Sir *Jeal.* Nay, I don't know the matter, Mr. *Meanwell*.

Marp. Upon my Soul, Sir *George* ———

[*Going up to Sir George.*

Sir *Jeal.* Nay then, I'm betray'd, ruin'd, undone: Thieves, Traytors, Rogues: (*Offers to go in.*) Stop the Marriage, I say ———

Sir *Geo.* I say go on, Mr. *Tackum*, ——— Nay, no entering here. I guard this Passage, old Gentleman; the Act and Deed were both your own, and I'll see them sign'd or die for't.

Enter Servant.

Sir *Jeal.* A Pox on the Act and Deed: fall on, knock him down.

Sir

Sir Geo. Ay, come on, Scoundrels! I'll prick your Jackets for you.

Sir Jeal. Zounds, Sirrah, I'll be reveng'd on you.

[Beats Marplot.

Sir Geo. Ay, there your Vengeance is due; Ha, ha.

Marp. Why, what do you beat me for? I han't marry'd your Daughter.

Sir Jeal. Rascals! why don't you knock him down?

Serv. We are afraid of his Sword, Sir; if you'll take that from him, we'll knock him down presently.

Enter Charles and Isabinda.

Sir Jeal. Seize her then.

Cha. Rascals, retire; she's my Wife, touch her if you dare, I'll make Dogs Meat of you.

Sir Jeal. Ah! downright English, Oh, oh, oh, oh.

Enter Sir Francis Gripe, Miranda, Patch, Scentwell, and Whisper.

Sir Fran. Into the House of Joy we enter without knocking: Ha! I think 'tis the House of Sorrow, Sir Jealous.

Sir Jeal. Oh! Sir Francis! are you come? what, was this your Contrivance, to abuse, trick, and chouse me of my Child?

Sir Fran. My contrivance! what do you mean?

Sir Jeal. No, you don't know your Son there in Spanish Habit.

Sir Fran. How! my Son in Spanish Habit! Sirrah, you'll come to be hang'd; get out of my sight, ye Dog! get out of my sight.

Sir Jeal. Get out of your sight, Sir! Get out with your Bags; let's see what you'll give him now to maintain my Daughter on.

Sir Fran. Give him! He shall never be the better for a penny of mine — and you might have look'd after your Daughter better, Sir Jealous. Trick'd quotha! Egad, I think you design'd to trick me: But look ye, Gentlemen, I believe I shall trick you both. This Lady is my Wife, do you see? And my Estate shall descend only to the Heirs of her Body.

Sir Geo. Lawfully begotten by me — I shall be extremely oblig'd to you, Sir Francis.

Sir

Sir *Fran.* Ha, ha, ha, poor Sir *George*! you see your project was of no use, does not your hundred Pound stick in your Stomach? Ha, ha, ha.

Sir *Geo.* No, faith, Sir *Francis*, this Lady has given me a Cordial for that. *(takes her by the hand.)*

Sir *Fran.* Hold, Sir, you have nothing to say to this Lady.

Sir *Geo.* Nor you nothing to do with my Wife, Sir.

Sir *Fran.* Wife, Sir!

Miran. Ay, really *Guardian*, 'tis even so. I hope you'll forgive my first Offence.

Sir *Fran.* What, have you chous'd me out of my Consent, and your Writings then, Mistress, ha?

Miran. Out of nothing but my own, *Guardian*.

Sir *Jeal.* Ha, ha, ha, 'tis some Comfort at least to see you all over-reach'd as well as myself. Will you settle your Estate upon your Son now?

Sir *Fran.* He shall starve first.

Miran. That I have taken care to prevent. There, Sir, are the Writings of your Uncle's Estate, which has been your due these three Years.

(Gives Charles Papers.)

Cha. I shall study to deserve this Favour.

Sir *Fran.* What, have you robb'd me too, Mistress! Egad, I'll make you restore 'em——Huswife I will so.

Sir *Jeal.* Take care I don't make you pay the Ar-rears, Sir. 'Tis well it's no worse, since 'tis no better. Come, young Man, seeing thou hast out-witted me, take her and bless you both.

Cha. I hope, Sir, you'll bestow your blessing too, 'tis all I ask.

Sir *Fran.* Confound you all.

[Exit.]

Marp. Mercy upon us! how he looks!

Sir *Geo.* Ha, ha, ne'er mind his Curses, *Charles*; thoult thrive not one Jot the worse for 'em. Since this Gentleman is reconcil'd, we are all made happy.

Sir *Jeal.* I always lov'd Precaution, and took care to avoid Dangers. But when a thing was past, I ever had Philosophy to be easy.

Cha. Which is the true sign of a great Soul; I lov'd your Daughter, and she me, and you shall have no reason to repent her Choice.

Isab.

Isab. You will not blame me, Sir, for loving my own Country best.

Marp. So here's every Body happy, I find, but poor *Pilgarlick*. I wonder what Satisfaction I shall have, for being cuff'd, kick'd, and beaten in your Service.

Sir Jeal. I have been a little too familiar with you, as Things are fallen out; but there's no help for't; you must forgive me.

Marp. Egad, I think so——— but provided that you be not familiar for the future.

Sir Geo. Thou hast been an unlucky Rogue.

Marp. But very honest.

Cha. That I'll vouch for, and freely forgive thee.

Sir Geo. And I'll do you one Piece of Service more,

Marplot, I'll take care that *Sir Francis* make you Master of your Estate.

Marp. That will make me as happy as any of you.

Patch Your humble Servant begs Leave to remind you, Madam.

Isab. Sir, I hope you'll give me Leave to take *Patch* into Favour again.

Sir Jeal. Nay let your husband look to that, I have done with my Care.

Cha. Her own Liberty shall always oblige me. Here's no Body but honest *Whisper* and Mrs. *Scentwell* to be provided for now. It shall be left to their Choice, to marry or keep their Services.

Whisp. Nay then, I'll stick to my Master.

Scent. Coxcomb! and I prefer my Lady before a Footman.

Sir Jeal. Hark, I hear Musick, the Fiddlers smell a Wedding. What say you, young Fellows, will ye have a Dance?

A D A N C E.

Sir Jeal. Now let us in and refresh ourselves with a cheerful Glass, in which we'll bury all Animosities: And,

By my Example let all Parents move,
And never strive to cross their Childrens Love,
But still submit that Care to Providence above.

}

E P I L O G U E.

*I*N me you see one Busy Body more ;
 Tho' you may have enough of one before.
 With Epilogues, the Busy Body's Way,
 We strive to help, but sometimes mar a Play.
 At this mad Sessions, half condemn'd ere try'd,
 Some, in three Days, have been turn'd off, and dy'd.
 In spite of Parties, their Attempts are vain,
 For, like false Prophets, they ne'er rise again.
 Too late, when cast, your Favour one beseeches,
 And Epilogues, prove Execution-speeches.
 Yet sure I spy no Busy Bodies here,
 And one may pass, since they do ev'ry where.
 Sour Criticks, Time, and Breath, and Censures waste,
 And baulk your Pleasures to refine your Taste.
 One busy Don ill-tim'd high Tenets preaches,
 Another yearly shews himself in Speeches.
 Some snivelling Cits wou'd have a Peace for spite,
 To starve those Warriors, who so bravely fight
 Still of a Foe upon his Knees afraid,
 Whose well-banged Troops, want Money, Heart, and Bread.
 Old Beaux, who none, not e'en themselves can please,
 Are busy still, for nothing — but to teize
 The Young ; so busy to engage a Heart ;
 The Mischief done, are busy most to part.
 Ungrateful Wretches, who still cross one's Will,
 When they more kindly might be busy still :
 One to a Husband, who ne'er dreamt of Horns,
 Shews how dear Spouse with Friends his Brow adorns,
 Th' officious Tell-tale Fool (he shou'd repent it)
 Parts three kind Souls that liv'd at Peace contented.
 Some with Law Quirks set Houses by the Ears,
 With Physic one, what he wou'd heal impairs,
 Like that dark mob'd up Fry, that neighb'ring Curse
 Who to remove Love's Pains bestow a worse.
 Since then this meddling Tribe infest the Age,
 Bear one awhile expos'd upon the Stage.
 Let none but Busy Bodies vent their Spight,
 And with good Humour Pleasure crown the Night.

F I N I S.